

All youth deserve a safe and stable home.

Invest in long-term rental assistance for Oregon youth at risk of homelessness

HB 2163 establishes a Long-Term Rent Assistance fund at Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) which will invest in a program initially focused on youth exiting the foster care system, other institutional settings, or otherwise experiencing homelessness.



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN OREGON

Oregon has the highest rate per capita of youth homelessness in the nation

Of the 1,590 unaccompanied young adults (aged 18-24) experiencing homelessness in 2019, 72.5% (1,152) were unsheltered

One-third (33%) of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness were formerly in the foster care. 51% of these youth were Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; of which 1 in 3 (34%) were Black youth

An estimated 50% of adults who were experiencing chronic homelessness* nationwide experienced homelessness as transition-age youth. **By targeting a primary entry point into adult homelessness, this program seeks to impact these outcomes by providing stability and support to youth at risk of becoming unhoused as they enter adulthood.** Youth need stability and safety that long term rent assistance can provide, and they need the same education and training opportunities as experienced by their counterparts who are living with their families.

The Long-Term Rent Assistance program will provide meaningful assistance to Oregon's youth at risk of homelessness. High housing costs and people paying too much of their income towards rent in our state means that Oregonians with low and extremely low incomes—including these youth—are unable to receive the support they need to afford rent. Long-Term Rent Assistance program means there is no set end-date for assistance. The Governor's Recommended Budget allocates \$4.5 million for this program.

Support HB 2163—invest in meaningful assistance to Oregon's youth at risk of homelessness.

**Chronic homelessness is defined as many years of experiencing homelessness coupled with disabling conditions. People who experience chronic homelessness are more likely to experience severe trauma, poor health outcomes, repeated engagement with law enforcement, face in-patient hospitalization for behavioral healthcare, and often utilize the emergency room as their primary care provider.*

