

Ending Youth Homelessness






A guidebook to
prevention, intervention,
and advocacy



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Section Key

-  = Outreach
-  = 24/7 Shelters
-  = Next Steps

hablamos
español

Directory

Youth Service Center (Outreach Hub): 541-220-2955

- Harm Reduction: 541-745-4591
- Education Assist: 541-745-4590
- Queer Peers: queer.peers@jacksonstreet.org
- TOPSoccer: 541-223-8844
- Youth Ambassadors: 971-599-1403

Albany House: 541-220-2950

Corvallis House: 541-754-2404

Next Steps Program: 541-360-8482

- PS541: 541-452-2677

Program Director: 541-760-4669



Together we can end youth homelessness.

With our partners, we are leading state, regional, and local efforts to ensure that youth homelessness is prevented whenever possible, and that unaccompanied youth who do experience homelessness are on a quick path to safe, stable, and permanent housing.

What we will do together to end youth homelessness:

1. Work with families who are at risk of fracturing.
2. Connect youth with trauma informed, culturally appropriate, and developmentally and age-appropriate interventions.
3. Intervene early when youth become homeless and work toward family reunification, when safe and appropriate.
4. Connect youth to the right services for them and prioritize the most vulnerable youth.
5. Provide safe shelter and emergency services.
6. Respond to the unique needs and circumstances of each youth including strong connections to child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
7. Tailor services and housing options to the needs of each youth including education and employment.

Truths about youth homelessness

1

Homeless youth are not bad kids

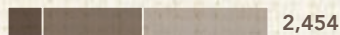
They're good kids in bad situations.

Locally

Most homeless youth are **with family** living in shelters, motels, tents, or cars. Some are **unaccompanied** and have been abandoned by their families or have run away from home.

● Benton ● Lincoln ● Linn

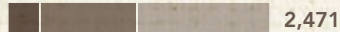
2018-19 *homeless youth* K-12



2018-19 *unaccompanied* K-12



2019-20 *homeless youth* K-12



2019-20 *unaccompanied* K-12



2

Youth homelessness is not rare

but it can seem invisible.

Nationally*

As a **percentage of the population**, youth homelessness is just as much of a challenge in rural communities as it is in more urban communities.



1 in 30

of the total population of 13-17 year olds are homeless

* Data sourced from "Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America," Chapin Hall, 2017

3

A high school education and **ONE positive adult** can offer longer-term **SUCCESS**

This is a solvable problem.

47%

of youth in shelter last year identified as LGBTQ+

100%

of youth in shelter are enrolled in school

32

trained Volunteer Mentors are supporting youth or waiting to be matched

4

The need for support **doesn't end at age 17**

Young adults need unique services to help them succeed long-term.

Nationally*



1 in 10

of the total population of 18–25 year olds are homeless

* Data sourced from "Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America," Chapin Hall, 2017





Our mission

Jackson Street Youth Services is here to promote safety, stability, and well-being for youth. We work to prevent homelessness by showing a path to long-term success through building positive relationships and skills for self-sufficiency.

Who are these homeless youth?

Some youth are at greater risk of experiencing homelessness, with the strongest correlation being youth who have less than a highschool diploma or GED. LGBTQ, low-income, non-white, and parenting youth are also at greater risk.*

Causes and symptoms of youth homelessness

Runaway and homeless youth flee conflict, abuse, or poverty in their homes. They can become disconnected from educational systems and the workforce and do not have the skills and financial resources to live on their own.*

* Data sourced from "Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America," Chapin Hall, 2017

How Jackson Street supports youth in our care

Youth safety is our number # 1 priority. Homeless youth are at a high risk for assault, victimization, human trafficking, mental health and addiction problems, illness, malnutrition, and injury.

In our care, it is important that the youth have a safe place to be, with **adults they can trust** and who will help them address their immediate safety and health.

Case Management

Case Management is the primary place where the whole person is taken into account. **We work to improve quality of life** and prevent future problems from happening. We use a youth centered, solution focused model.

Mental Health

All youth in our services have **access to our Mental Health Therapist** who supports youth and families experiencing homelessness in understanding themselves and moving toward a more meaningful future by acting on their value-based choices.

Aftercare

Aftercare means **youth can stay connected even after they leave formal services.** We are there for them and they can check in when needed.

Our measured outcomes are:

- A safe & stable place to call home.
- Positive connections with families, communities, schools, and social networks
- Education & employment
- Well-being that equips a young person to succeed in school, work, relationships, and community

Outcome examples:

- Youth are reunified with their families or to another safe place
- Youth make connections to one or more caring adult besides staff
- Youth finish high school or complete GED
- Youth participate in positive youth development activities

Our Continuum of Care



Outreach Ages 10-24

- ➔ Street & School Outreach
- ➔ Drop-In Centers
- ➔ Education Assist
- ➔ Basic Needs
- ➔ Support Groups
- ➔ Mentoring
- ➔ Mental Health
- ➔ Case Management

24/7 Shelters Ages 10-17

- ➔ Safe Housing During Crisis
- ➔ Family Mediation
- ➔ Case Management
- ➔ Mental Health
- ➔ Education Support
- ➔ Positive Activities
- ➔ Aftercare

Next Steps Ages 18-24

- ➔ Supported Housing
- ➔ Life Skills Building
- ➔ Mental Health
- ➔ Education & Employment
- ➔ Case Management
- ➔ Aftercare
- ➔ Positive Activities

We don't get pushed away. We don't leave.

Even when youth exit shelter, other parts of our program catch them.

Our continuum of services is designed to prevent homelessness whenever possible and if it does occur to ensure that it is rare, brief, and one-time.

Outreach Programs

Ages 10–24

Our Outreach Program makes connections, forms trust, reduces harm, and builds bridges to additional help and services.

CHALLENGE:

Young person who has been disconnected and has distrust of adults, potentially vulnerable to victimization, in need of resources but doesn't know how to get help.

SOLUTION:

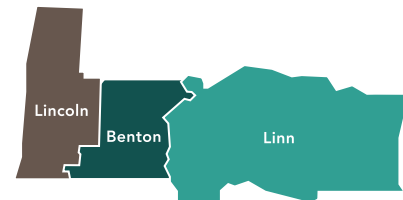
Referral to outreach to build a positive relationship, assess young person's needs, provide appropriate services, and build a bridge to safe and stable housing.

Our **Youth Service Center** in Albany is the hub of our outreach work. From here we host meeting space for support groups, case management, staff work space, and resources like food, clothing, and a washer and dryer.

Street Outreach Teams offer basic needs like socks and snacks as a way to build trust across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties. Our outreach teams connect with youth through harm reduction with the ultimate goal of moving youth from the street to shelter or housing.

Services Provided:

- Food boxes and warm meals
- Access to wifi and computers
- Hygiene supplies
- Access to laundry services
- COVID safety kits
- Sexual health supplies
- Access to clothing closet
- Referrals to Case Management and Mental Health



School Outreach



Education Assist is available to:

1. 10-24 year olds who are homeless or at risk of homelessness;
2. In the 3-county region (Linn, Benton, and Lincoln);
3. With a focus on unaccompanied youth and young adults.

How we can help:

- School registration/connecting to your McKinney-Vento
- Educational Advocate at 504, IEP, suspension, and expulsion hearings
- Fees for books, testing, sports/clubs, applications, graduation, etc.
- Necessary school supplies
- Homeless Verification letters for FAFSA
- Academic Coaching
- Support with scholarships, FAFSA, college or vocational applications
- Support groups
- Documents (birth certificate, ID, Social Security)
- Basic needs

Support Groups:

Support Groups in schools follow research-based curriculum to build courage, confidence, honesty, and communication skills.

These groups promote resiliency and healthy relationships in youth, adults, and communities with research-based, gender-responsive program models and best practices.

One Circle and Unity Groups

What is it?

A structured support group model for people of all genders that addresses critical needs and strengths while honoring and celebrating unique lived experiences. Rooted in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) principles, it aims to build resiliency and provide skills for healthy relationships.

Queer Peers

What is it?

Queer Peers is a gender and sexuality support group for youth and young adults in Linn County that identify as LGBTQ+

Eligibility

Ages 10-18, young adult groups by request

Virtual option available!

Eligibility

Youth and young adults ages 14-24 that identify as LGBTQ+

Mentoring

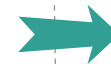
Like our other services, Jackson Street Mentoring is youth-focused. Our goal is to match youth with an adult they enjoy being with and can trust that could become a permanent connection in their life.

Mentors (trained volunteers) are caring community members who want to build a healthy relationship with a vulnerable youth to cheer them on and support them.

Mentees (youth: ages 10–24) get to spend quality one-on-one time with their mentor doing activities, accomplishing personal goals, or just hanging out and talking.



Mentoring Steps:



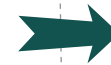
Youth completes Interest Form



Youth meets with Mentoring Coordinator



Youth engages in Mentoring Program



Youth gets matched to Mentor



Youth and Mentor build relationship and foster connection

24/7 Shelters

Ages 10–17

Safety is #1

Jackson Street's Shelters are licensed by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to meet the needs of the youth in our care. 24/7 Shelters prevent homelessness by providing respite to families in crisis, mediating and reunifying youth with their families whenever it is safe and appropriate.

Albany House & Corvallis House—Jackson Street's two 24/7 shelters for 10 to 17 year-olds—keep youth safe while they work to reunite with their families or find other permanent housing.

CHALLENGE 1:

Youth is experiencing housing instability and is lacking safety or youth has run away due to severe family conflict.

SOLUTION 1:

Shelter for sense of safety, immediate stability, and begin working on a path to long-term success with appropriate services in place.

CHALLENGE 2:

Family struggling and on the brink of kicking out youth.

SOLUTION 2:

Shelter and family reunification through mediation, case management, mental health support, skill building, and education support.

Who's a good fit?

- Youth couch surfing to avoid an unsafe or unwelcoming home
- Youth not welcome at home due to lack of LGBTQ acceptance
- Youth whose guardian cannot remain sober, housed, or otherwise stable
- Youth sleeping in their car or tent
- Families who want a structured program to support their youth's needs

Who's not a good fit?

- Youth not at risk or vulnerable
- Youth who are adjudicated sex offenders, fire starters, or actively suicidal
- Families who want to pass responsibility to someone else



A typical day is...

Shelters

Residents will gain support in their daily routine (waking up, health and hygiene, medications, getting to and from school/appointments/employment, getting enough sleep, etc). All meals are planned, cooked, and eaten together—"family style". All engage in house contributions after dinner. During the weekdays Study Hall is made a priority and support is given for educational success with access to volunteer Academic Coaches and supportive staff.

Activities to experience and learn new things are sprinkled throughout the week but during the school year are mostly on weekends. We have a Friday night tradition of pizza and movies; we maintain partnerships in the community that support physical activity, connection, education, and service learning. During the summer we visit the coast, go hiking, and run a water program (river snorkeling, kayaking, canoes). We have trained staff to meet individually, on a weekly basis, with each resident to set and accomplish goals, build skills, practice anger reduction, and elevate youth voice to ensure needs are met.

both shelters are newly remodeled!



Albany House
16 beds available

1240 SE 7th Ave
Albany, OR 97321



Corvallis House
10 beds available

555 NW Jackson Ave
Corvallis, OR 97330

Family Mediation

Our goal with Family Mediation is to reunify youth with their families, whenever appropriate. Youth want to see change, effort, and growth made by all parties involved in their crisis situation. It's important that the youth we serve are given opportunities and environments to help them grow and build bright futures for themselves. This process is successful and can take several weeks to several months, depending on each situation.

1

Youth settles into services, basic needs get met. Family begins 1 hour porch visits per week at shelter. These can increase to 4 hours in the community and eventually 8 hours in the home.

2

Youth is engaged in case management. Mental Health services begin for youth and/or family. A mediation referral is made. Family begins 1 night overnight at home, can increase to 2 nights.

3

3 nights at home, 1 night at shelter, 3 nights at home.

4

Exits with Aftercare in place and other services stabilized.

Guidelines & Expectations for youth while in shelter:

- Help contribute to the safe, stable, and secure environment of others by acting in a calm, cooperative, and kind manner
- Make good choices, use critical thinking skills to work through decisions or issues that may arise
- Maintain sobriety
- Limited access to cell phones and social medias, in services to work on yourself and a better future
- Prioritize education, skill building, case management, and mental health (...then employment, positive connections, etc)
- Work on communication (being able to appropriately communicate needs and get needs met, finding voice, advocate for self)
- Participate in activities, try your best
- Promote tolerance, if not acceptance, of all people different from oneself

Goals after leaving shelter:

- Living at home with a new understanding and coping skills for youth and family
- Finding a family or friend who can provide stability and adequate bed, food, and other care
- Moving into Next Steps, a transitional living program, to learn skills for independent living, finish education, gain employment, and save for permanent housing
- Stay supported even after leaving shelter through Aftercare

Partners can call to schedule shelter tours!

Albany House: 541-220-2950

Corvallis House: 541-745-2404





Next Steps Ages 18–24

Our Next Steps program provides housing and guidance to older youth who would otherwise be homeless. These young adults are developing the skills needed to succeed in life. This is not an emergency service and requires a submitted application and interview. Outreach and support services will be made available if youth need to wait for an open unit.

Next Steps provides young adults with long-term apartment-style housing and support services. Each month youth pay “rent,” which is put in a savings account for them. At the end of their stay (can be up to 18 months), this money is returned to the youth in full to be used for permanent housing.

CHALLENGE:

Unaccompanied young person couch surfing while trying to graduate from high school.

SOLUTION:

Next Steps housing and support determining a path to long-term success through building positive relationships and skills for self-sufficiency.



Who’s a good fit?

- Young adults, ages 18–24, who would otherwise be homeless
- Youth living in a home that feels unsafe or unwelcoming, including lack of LGBTQ acceptance
- Youth sleeping in their car or tent

Who’s not a good fit?

- Youth not interested in being helped or having daily supervision
- Youth not focused on education and/or employment
- Youth not willing to reach independent living goals

A typical day is...

Next Steps

Youth will continue and complete their education and work towards employment through weekly skill building. They will meet with their case manager to work on goals and meet with our Mental Health Therapist while needed. Program participants commit to being safe and kind in communal living situations and support upkeep of the house.

There are currently three possible “tiers” that youth can enter, depending on age, skills and need, and availability of units within our program. While personalized for individual youth, the goal is always gradual independence and ultimately, self-sufficiency.



Tier 1: Traditional Next Steps Housing participants will engage in weekly mental health, skills training, and case management programs; “rent” paid is a savings program, which is returned in full to the youth at the time of exit. This program is offered to young adults ages 18-20, for up to 18 months.



Tier 2: Next Level Housing participants will attend some skills training and case management to ensure future success and have access to mental health; begin paying partial rent. This program offers a 6 month lease for young adults ages 21-24.



Tier 3: Rental Housing young adults will have access to case management, skills training and mental health opportunities without obligations; will pay full (regionally inexpensive) rent. This program offers a month to month lease for young adults ages 21-24.

Skill Building

Virtual option available!

Examples:

- Employment Readiness
- Education Engagement/College Readiness
- Money Management
- Self Care and Mindfulness
- Household Maintenance
- Taxes
- Healthy Living/Nutrition and Cooking
- Sexual Health and Healthy Relationships
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Community Resources
- Anger Management/Building Coping Skills
- Computer Navigation
- How to Deal with Grief and Loss

Support Group:

Peer Support 541 (PS-541)

What is it?

PS-541 is a support group that meets weekly, focused on life skills

Eligibility

Youth and young adults ages 16–24



Youth engagement opportunities

Youth Ambassadors

Jackson Street Youth Ambassadors create change in their local communities by working to end youth homelessness in Oregon. As leaders, Youth Ambassadors work to support and inform the efforts of the organization with projects in their own schools, fundraising, advocating in the community, and through building awareness campaigns, especially during National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM).

NRPM helps shine a light on youth homelessness in our communities and as part of a national movement.

Please join Jackson Street in shining a light on youth homelessness EVERY November!

TOPSoccer

In partnership with Oregon Youth Soccer Association and Oregon Valley Futbol Alliance, TOPSoccer is a community-based program for players with disabilities. This program aims to bring learning and playing soccer to any youth who has a mental or physical disability. Volunteer “buddies” are matched with players.

Players can be ages 10-24

Volunteers can be 14+





Helping Youth 24/7/365

Stay healthy, everyone!

Contact us if you need help with COVID-19 education, vaccination, or supplies.

jacksonstreet.org

1-800-901-2904



Supporting all youth

Mailing addresses:

P.O. Box 285
Corvallis, OR 97339

P.O. Box 1984
Albany, OR 97321

follow us on social media

