**Self-Sufficiency Programs Partner Meeting Agenda**

**Thursday, October 10th, 2024**

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| **Meeting Leaders:** | Misha Mayers | **[Zoom Link](https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1614998901?pwd=Q2JwTVA5eC8vR1JNeXhJVzF2WXNUZz09)**Meeting ID: 161 499 8901Passcode: 295576One tap mobile +16692545252,,1614998901# |
| **Date:** | October 10, 2024 |
| **Time:** | 2:05 – 2:55 p.m. PST |
| **Location:** | Virtual Meeting: Zoom or Call  |

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| **Time** | **Agenda Item** | **Purpose**  | **Who** |
| **2:05** | Entrance [**music**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SD2dCkUu2tg)**:** Autumn Harvest, Tim Janis**Welcome** | **Introduction in chat:****Name, Pronouns,****Organization and Role.** | Misha Mayers |
| **2:10 – 2:30** | **Agency Request Budget****(ARB)** | **Agency Request Budget (ARB) Update for Partners**[**ARB Feedback Survey for Partners**](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/4719cc34d13742fbad74914c8817c1c8)**ODHS vision & Equity North Star**All who live in Oregon, regardless of race, identity, age, disability, or place, have the needed support to achieve whole well-being for us, our families, and our communities.* Inclusivity: We inclusively lead with race and intersectionality to address the roots of systemic oppression that impact all protected class.
* Wellbeing: Staff and communities will know services and supports are working when all who live in Oregon, regardless of identity or place, can achieve well-being.
* Equity: We are dedicated to making services, supports and well-being accessible to all.
* Service: We are committed to partnering with communities to develop and deliver policies and programs that are equitable and improve community conditions.

**ODHS Agency Request Budget (ARB) Is now posted online:**[[**ODHS Agency Budget Report**](https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/about/pages/budget.aspx)](https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/about/pages/budget.aspx)* ODHS has developed a survey to gather feedback from community partners on our ARB. [**ARB Feedback Survey for Partners**](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/4719cc34d13742fbad74914c8817c1c8) .
	+ The feedback will help inform the Governor’s Office as it further considers agency requests and develops the Governor’s Recommended Budget (GRB), which will be released this winter, likely in early December.

**Governor’s approach to the state budget process:**1. **Earlier and ongoing collaboration** between state agencies, the Department of Administrative Services, and the Governor’s Office.
2. **Ensuring greater alignment** of effort across the entire executive branch and making the best use of limited state resources.
3. Changes to agencies’ **partner engagement timelines**.

**2025-27 Budget Outlook:*** Based on September’s state revenue forecast, we anticipate a limited budget landscape ahead.
* There remain many unknowns, including future revenue forecasts, 2025 legislative priorities and unforeseen events requiring a state response.
	+ We will keep you all posted as more information becomes available.

**Budget Parameters*** New investments will primarily support the Governor’s housing, behavioral health, and education initiatives.
* Agency budget proposals must otherwise stay within a **1% growth limit from 2023-25.**
* **ARBs will inform but not dictate** the Governor’s Recommended Budget (GRB), which likely be release in early December.

**ODHS Budget Priorities*** Safety: Enhancing client and worker safety though security contracts, oversight, and facilities improvements.
* Service Equity: Improving government-to-government relationships and advancing service equity at the Tribal and local levels. Improve resources to enable data collection to help eliminate service inequities.
* Stewardship: Building contracting and oversight capacity to ensure optimal use of state and federal investments.

**ODHS ARB by Fund Type:*** Federal Fund: $13,439.78 (62%)
* General Fund: $7,052.25 (32%)
* Other Funds (like grants): $1,258.17 (6%)

**SSP Policy Option Packages (POPs)***The Governor has directed state agencies to hold these priorities at the center of their budget planning for 2025-27.***Governor’s housing initiative:*** Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (YEHP) Core Services Maintenance
* Aligning and strengthening the youth homelessness continuum

**1% POPs:*** Increase in payments for Job Participation Incentive (JPI)
* SNAP Elderly Simplified Application Process (ESAP)

**About POPs:****POP 107 – SSP – Job Participation Incentive Increase*** **Problem:** Currently, the rate of Oregon’s Job Participation Incentive falls below the federal mandate of $35, which could result in a loss of up to $35M in federal TANF funding.
* **Solution:** Increase the JPI payment to $35 per month to ensure continued inclusion of these families in the WPR calculation.
* **Outcomes:** Continued full federal TANF funding for Oregon, improved financial support for participating families, and maintained compliance with federal WPR requirements.
* **DEIB Impact:** Continued full federal TANF funding for Oregon, improved financial support for participating families, and maintained compliance with federal WPR requirements.

**POP 108 – SSP – SNAP Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP)*** **Problem:** Older adults and people with disabilities face barriers in accessing SNAP benefits, in part due to complicated processes, increasing the risk of SNAP churn due to procedural issues rather than financial ineligibility.
* **Solution:** Createa simplified 2-page application, extended certification periods to 36 months, and specialized staff support through a dedicated call center, improving access and reducing administrative burdens for these populations.
* **Outcomes:** Improved SNAP access and customer service for older adults and people with disabilities, reduced churn, and streamlined workload for eligibility staff.
* **DEIB Impact:** This POP addresses the unique barriers faced by older adults and people with disabilities, promoting more equitable access to essential nutrition benefits.
* **Resources:** Funding of $1.3M would be split between federal and state general funds and create two new positions.

**POP 502 – SSP YEHP Core Service Maintenance:*** **Problem:** Oregon has the highest percentage of unsheltered youth in the nation. Current funding for YEHP is set to expire June 2025, risking a 75% reduction in program budget and services.
* **Solution:** Sustain YEHP’s core services, including Direct Cash Transfer, and expand services into underserved communities.
* **Outcomes:** Better access and support for youth experiencing homelessness, including safe housing, crisis intervention and long-term stability.
* **DEIB Impact:** This POP specifically targets support for disproportionately affected populations, including Black youth, youth of color, LGBTQIA2S+ youth, and Native American youth, ensuring access to essential homelessness prevention and intervention services.

**POP 503 – SSP – Aligning and Strengthening YEHP Continuum*** **Problem:** The current fragmented system lacks alignment and comprehensive outcome measures, making it difficult to effectively support and track the progress of youth experiencing homelessness.
* **Solution:** Conduct a youth homelessness landscape scan and needs assessment, develop equity- and housing-focused outcome measures, explore opportunities for alignment across state-funded youth programs. Expand YEHP to address gaps.
* **Outcomes:** Improved understanding of the demographics and needs, better align services and measure progress, and expand access to services, particularly in underserved areas.
* **DEIB Impact:** Addresses disparities among youth of color, LGBTQIA2S+ youth, and other marginalized groups by tailoring policies and programs to improve access and outcomes.
* **Resources:** More than $7M state general fund, $118K federal funds. Creates 5 positions.

**Challenges:*** Increasing caseloads and decreased staffing
* Budget constraints
	+ Expired/expiring federal pandemic funding has put strain on our budget. we need to develop a more sustainable balance of state general funds and federal funding.
* Maximizing Community Resources
	+ We are working to strengthen partnerships with community providers to maximize resources available to the people we serve.

**ODHS 2025-27 Budget Process: The Road Ahead*** **Sept 1st, 2024:** ARB Submitted
* **Sept 23rd-25th, 2024:** Legislative Days
* **Dec 1st, 2024:** Governor’s Budget Released
* **Dec 10th-12th, 2024:** Legislative Days
* **Jan 2025:** 2025 Session Begins
* **June 2025:** Session Ends.

**If you have additional thoughts in the next two weeks, please send them via email to SSP’s community engagement coordinator, Misha Mayers.****Michelle.mayers@odhs.oregon.gov****Extra Resources/Links:*** [**Resources for Self-Sufficiency Partners**](https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/providers-partners/self-sufficiency/pages/default.aspx)
* **YEHP Contact Email:** **matthew.rasmussen@odhs.oregon.gov**
* [**ODHS Agency Budget Report**](https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/about/pages/budget.aspx)
* [**ARB Feedback Survey for Partners**](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/4719cc34d13742fbad74914c8817c1c8)
 | Claire Seguin |
| **2:30-2:55** | **Discussion** | **Q&A:** [**Resources for Self-Sufficiency Partners**](https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/providers-partners/self-sufficiency/pages/default.aspx)* Could this act as a "pilot" to make the SNAP application more simplified for everyone?
	+ This program is for a specific population so it would not be something that would be used for other populations. It is something that we could look in to.
* Would there be any kind of an incentive eventually for youth experiencing homelessness to be encouraged to go to community college or university?
	+ Matthew Rasmussen: We are the managers and oversight of the [tuition and fee waivers](https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/children-youth/Pages/homeless-youth.aspx#:~:text=Tuition%20and%20Fee%20Waivers) for young people who are experiencing homelessness. Young people may be able to have their tuition and fees waved at Oregon Community Colleges, Public Universities or OHSU.
	+ We would be happy to connect you with how to make application, get information to young people, and how to submit.
* I’m interested in seeing the budget to understand our goals better. Also, are there any new resources I can share with families?
	+ I’m always open to discussing youth homelessness, especially regarding ages 24 to 25, as our funding supports this range. If you or anyone else has questions or wants to discuss partnerships, I’d be happy to help. I'll share my contact information in the chat for any inquiries about resources or connections we can facilitate.
	+ YEHP Contact Email: matthew.rasmussen@odhs.oregon.gov
* It might be helpful to hear from you all about how you decided on these things as opposed to other things. How did these items rise to the top of the long list of things that could be done?
	+ We’ve been working closely with the Governor’s Office. Several factors helped us narrow down our options. The news about the 1% budget limit helped guide ideas that would fit within our total budget.
	+ All proposals had to align with both the Governor's initiatives and our internal goals. Ongoing discussions with the Governor’s Office emphasized our commitment to delivering efficient customer service, which became a key driver for our decisions.
	+ Within the agency, there are certain priorities in terms of programmatic issues we are trying to address - everything from what are we doing about provider rates to caseloads. These factored into what selections made.
 | Misha Mayers |
| **2:55** | **Conclusion** | **We would love your feedback: Please fill out this survey form or email** **michelle.mayers@odhs.oregon.gov** |  |

American Sign Language, Spanish interpretation and closed captioning will be provided.