A PROPOSAL FOR THE SUCCESS OF ASHLAND’S HOMELESS YOUTH
Maslow Project

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Issue
Youth homelessness is on the rise, both in Ashland and statewide. In the 2009-2010 school year, 84 youth enrolled in the Ashland School District were homeless. "Homeless" is defined by the McKinney-Vento Act as “any student who lacks a regular, fixed, night time residence.” This includes couch surfing, living in weekly rate motels, doubled-up, shelters, parks, camping, on the streets or living in substandard blight conditions. A variety of factors contribute to the unstable housing situations of these children. Schools and service providers around the region are seeing more “first-time homelessness” in youth and families.

Street youth frequently face a vicious cycle of challenges. They feel despondent and hopeless, and can sometimes self-medicate with drugs or alcohol. This leads to unfavorable interactions with law enforcement, which causes difficulty for them in school success, finding housing, and employment, thus leading to further lack of confidence and self worth. Living on the streets creates a host of additional problems for teens in this area, including a higher risk of sexual abuse and sexually transmitted diseases, mental health issues, decreased access to health care and unhealthy relationships.

Proposed Solution
Maslow Project, a nationally-recognized goal-oriented resource center, provides an integrated place for homeless youth to connect with a multitude of resources and services while receiving wrap-around case management to ensure a continuum of care.

Maslow Project proposes the addition of a resource center located at Ashland High School that is built upon Maslow Project’s existing successful model to improve the identification, tracking, and reporting of homeless youth in Ashland, expedite access to services and basic needs, further develop programs and opportunities, improve coordination of services for youth and families, leverage additional support, and provide wrap-around case management.

Upon referral from teachers, principals, school staff, agencies, parents, or other community members, the case manager will make initial contact with the youth (if an older teen or unaccompanied) or parent(s). Through this conversation, as well as input from the referral source, the case manager then makes a comprehensive individual assessment of the youth’s situation and needs and creates a case management plan accordingly. This assessment includes the following information:

- Current living situation/night-time residency
- Educational and enrollment status
- Barriers to education – including transportation, shelter, transfer requests, etc.
- Basic needs – clothing, school supplies, hygiene supplies, food, etc.
- Physical health, mental health, and drug/alcohol treatment needs
Maslow Project's efforts to provide an integrated place for youth to connect with a multitude of resources and services while receiving case management to ensure a continuum of care are recognized as “Best Practice” with the “wrap-around support” model. Maslow Project would coordinate with the Community Works Street Outreach program to target youth both in school and on the streets, in an effort to re-engage youth into school programs.

### Agency Background

Maslow Project was founded in 2007 in response to the growing critical needs of homeless youth in Medford, Oregon. Maslow Project received 501(c)3 not-for-profit status in 2009, with a mission to help youth build strong foundations for personal and educational success. We accomplish this mission by fostering self-sufficiency, removing barriers to services and education, and providing centralized access to resources. Maslow Project delivers services to youth and families in three fields: through a drop-in resource center, street outreach, and a school-based program.

Maslow Project evolved out of the federally-mandated McKinney-Vento Act, which requires all school districts to ensure homeless youth have barrier-free school enrollment, transportation to school, and access to their school of origin regardless of current residence. As the District-appointed McKinney Liaison since 2000, Mary Ferrell founded Maslow Project, leveraging federal education resources to expand funding and services for this vulnerable population’s growing needs. Now serving as the Executive Director of Maslow Project, Mary continues to be the Medford District Liaison and has expanded Maslow Project services to provide a wrap-around integrated support model for homeless youth including basic needs, case management, positive youth development and support services. Maslow Project leads the Jackson County McKinney-Vento consortia project, helping to establish resources and services for homeless youth and families throughout the county, including Ashland SD.

The integrated service model earned Maslow Project national recognition in 2008. The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) endorsed Maslow Project as the “Outstanding School-Based Educational Program Providing Services to Students in Homeless Situations.” Maslow Project also works with Coos Bay SD to develop their Maslow project and has consulted with many other communities both locally and nationally.

### Costs & Funding Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 FTE Case Manager ($15/hr, 40hrs/wk)</td>
<td>31,200</td>
<td>Local Foundation grants such as Ford Family, OCF Walker Fund or other foundations supporting children and education (projected) Community donations, in-kind, Title X</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 FTE Case Manager (benefits and payroll tax, 11%)</td>
<td>3,432</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervision (11%-Admin and oversight)</td>
<td>3,809</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Development (conferences, training, mileage)</td>
<td>1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Supplies &amp; Materials</td>
<td>2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Client Assistance (emergency and basic needs, fees and supplies for youth and families)</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>Title X, Ashland School Dist. (secured)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>43,941</strong></td>
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