

Direction Service



Direction Service is helping people with disabilities and special needs live full and healthy lives.

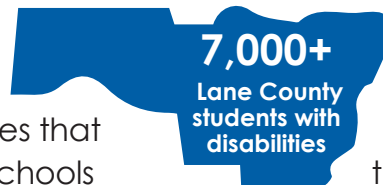
We provide Lane County with comprehensive programs and services to support the physical and behavioral well-being of youth and families.

Direction Service: Youth and Family Services

Research demonstrates that youth with disabilities are more likely than their peers to face socioeconomic disadvantages, problems with health, and lags in post-secondary education and community engagement.

The Oregon Department of Education reported that during the 2020-2021 school year, more than 16% of Lane County students experienced a disability. This included more than 5,000 students enrolled in Eugene, Springfield, and Bethel schools.

Research resoundingly concludes that positive relationships between schools and parents directly correlate with student success. For students with disabilities, this is often achieved through ongoing, and sometimes exhaustive, advocacy and problem-solving.



Lack of understanding of education systems and ineffective communication are common root causes of parent-school conflict. Our Service Coordination Program directly addresses these challenges using an integrated approach.

At no cost to clients, we connect youth with disabilities ages 0-23 (and their families) to services and supports in the community. We address global needs including housing, financial assistance, respite care, and health care. This holistic approach makes youth better-prepared for success in school and beyond.

To strengthen and empower families, our team:



Helps families understand, access, and coordinate services and supports to meet basic needs including food, housing, medical care, respite, and job placement.



Provides encouragement, emotional support, and continuity to reduce isolation and help families feel more control of their lives.



Advocates to ensure youth and family needs are met in a timely manner, without duplication or confusion, and before more expensive services are required.



Arranges and attends school, medical, mental health, and other meetings with families to ensure their voice is heard and to promote collaboration.

Positive Outcomes Through Collaboration

The Service Coordination program is the cornerstone of the agency and was first offered in 1976 when Direction Service was founded. Since its inception, the program has benefited from tremendous community support.

Direction Service has built and maintained productive relationships with schools, educators, and partner organizations throughout Lane County. We regularly collaborate with the Oregon System of Care, Youth ERA, Lane County Behavioral Health, McKinney Vento, and others.



380

Lane County families were served by the Service Coordination program during the 2020-2021 school year. 278 Of these youth also received services in prior years.

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There is just nothing like a community partnership that takes a need and moves it into a program that truly supports students in our schools and families beyond the school day.

- Amy Tidwell
Special Services Director, Bethel School District



With equity in mind, our **Servicio Cordinado/ Apoyo Escolar** provides service coordination to families with limited English proficiency and a primary language of Spanish.

97%

of youth served have an IEP or 504 plan in place.

Your investment positively impacts youth and families in our community.



The cost to operate the Service Coordination program for one year is **\$262,000**.

Your investment ensures youth and families impacted by physical and behavioral disabilities can access resources and that promote positive learning, stability, and prosperity.



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