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# QUEST



## NAVIGATOR

Issue #0001  
First Quarter  
March 2024

OCP's Quarterly Newsletter for Oregon's First LGBTQIA+ Focused Treatment Foster Care Program

## Updates & Goals

### Quarter One:

Goal's centered around Clinical Training and Readiness Preparation

- **Hiring:** Hired for key positions prioritizing community representation when possible
- **Culturally responsive manual edits:** Collaborated with model founders
- **Partner with qualitative researcher:** Oregon Social Learning Center (OSLC)
- **Training-Partner with TFCC** to provide clinical and foster parent training
- **Created consultation committee** comprised of key stakeholders and community partners to advise and inform project. Will meet each quarter.
- **Develop referral pathways**
- **Begin consultation calls with TFCC-Model developers**

### Goals for Next Quarter:

Clinical Implementation

- **Review referrals**
- **Initial screenings:** begin matching youth with foster homes
- **On going training and consultation:** with TFCC for clinical staff
- **On going foster parent recruitment and training**
- **Explore diversifying referral sources**

### Why now?

Queer-identified youth are disproportionately represented in the child welfare and juvenile justice system. They have heightened stress and mental health needs, higher suicidal ideation, and increased instances of substance use. Our system lacks options that meet the unique needs of these youth.

1 in 4 youth in the foster care system identify as queer. More than 60% of queer youth have indicated their homes are not affirming.

Oregon Community Programs is excited to announce a first-of-its-kind program for foster youth in Oregon: **QUEST - Queer, Unity, Equity, Safety, and Trust**. QUEST is an individualized application of Treatment Foster Care Oregon (TFCCO) that focuses on the unique needs and values of LGBTQIA+ youth and their communities. It is a targeted approach to ensure that foster youth have access to both safe, affirming environments and the mental health care they need.

Collaborative partnership with TFCC to deliver culturally responsive interventions to children and families.

### TFCC's research demonstrates these 5 pillars as fundamental in creating sustainable change:

- A Consistent Reinforcing Environment
- Daily Structure
- Supervision
- Promoting Prosocial Peers
- Supporting School Success

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## Foster Parent Update

Foster parents receive 24-hour/365 support for themselves and for their program youth.

**Become an OCP foster parent today!** OCP is actively recruiting both respite and full time foster parents to provide nurturing and affirming spaces for LGBTQIA+ youth.



<https://www.oregoncommunityprograms.org/fostering/>

**FOSTER PARENT COUNT: 3 Full/1 Respite**