

# 25-27 RJ Grant Application Questions

## A. Program Description and Staffing

### 1. Describe your program's goals and objectives, including the long-term impact you are attempting to facilitate. [500 words or less] - 495 words

Traditional criminal prosecution often treats young adults the same as fully mature adults, ignoring key developmental differences. Neuroscience research shows that the human brain does not reach full maturity until the mid-twenties, meaning individuals aged 18 to 25 are more prone to impulsive behavior, less capable of complex decision-making, and more susceptible to peer influence. Yet they face the same legal consequences as a 30- or 60-year-old. This mismatch can have lifelong consequences—reducing access to education, future earnings, and increasing the likelihood of reoffending.

To address this, the Deschutes County District Attorney's Office, in partnership with Restorative Justice and Equity (RJ&E) and Thrive Central Oregon (Thrive), is continuing the Emerging Adult Program (EAP), a pre-charge restorative justice initiative for young adults aged 18 to 25. The program offers a community-based alternative to prosecution, providing participants with the opportunity to take accountability and repair harm through restorative dialogue. Trained RJ practitioners facilitate a process between Responsible Parties (RPs) and, when willing, Harmed Parties (HPs), to develop a restorative plan that promotes healing and transformation.

Over 21 months (October 2025 to June 2027), the EAP will advance the following goals:

#### **Goal 1: Divert young adult cases from traditional prosecution.**

The program will enroll at least 60 new RPs -- screening all police reports involving 18 to 25 year-olds. At least 25% will be felony cases and 25% person crimes. Will maintain a 75% or higher completion rate, demonstrating effective support and accountability.

#### **Goal 2: Strengthen restorative practices.**

RJ&E will conduct an assessment of the current EAP model. Provide staff monthly training and hire dedicated RJ Facilitators to facilitate the restorative circles. The program will improve efficiency by moving all cases to a single track. This goal will be measured through staff and participant surveys, and a reduction in time from RP enrollment to initial circle.

#### **Goal 3: Improve participant preparedness.**

The EAP orientation will be revamped to improve how restorative justice is explained and all RPs will participate in at least one preparation session with an RJ specialist prior

to their initial circle. Measured by an average RP post-survey score of 80% on questions related to understanding the RJ process and feeling prepared.

#### **Goal 4: Increase HP participation.**

The program will increase HP participation in circles from 3% to 10%, by increasing HP touchpoints to at least five and, when appropriate, adding an RJ circle to increase HP input. In addition, new support tools—including an RJ demonstration video (by April 2026) and monthly HP orientation sessions (by December 2025)—will increase engagement.

#### **Long-Term Impact**

The EAP aims to: 1) Improve community safety by maintaining a participant recidivism rate below 25%; 2) Build personal agency, with a 10% increase in RP and HP empowerment and satisfaction from the pre- to post-survey; and 3) Reduce the number of potential court appearances during this time-period by 100.

### **2. Does your program design use evidence-based practices, or a program model that is known to be effective? 99**

The EAP has structured its restorative dialogue using evidence-based practices. Our participants will enter into dialogue with trained RJ Facilitators at RJE outside of the criminal justice system to foster healing and repair harm. The EAP provides resources to HPs and RPs to foster long-term stability and success. The EAP engages in restorative practices in how we collaborate, engage in evaluation and assessment, and participate in training.

The EAP has been in existence since July 2021. Preliminary data shows that our program model is effective. As of April 30, 2025, 95 individuals/98 cases enrolled, 80% graduated, and 12% recidivated.

### **3. How will your program operate? Include a description of what services will be available, and how restorative practices, such as restorative dialogues will be utilized. [500 words or less] – 453 words**

In October 2025, the Emerging Adult Program (EAP) will launch its third phase, continuing its mission to divert young adults from the traditional criminal justice system through restorative justice. While the core model from Phase 2 remains, key improvements will be implemented—most notably, transitioning to a new restorative justice partner, Restorative Justice & Equity (RJE). This shift, requiring a substantial transition, reflects our commitment to deepening the quality of restorative practice and aligning program delivery with the core values of accountability, healing, and community connection.

The EAP team is composed of representatives from four collaborating partners. RJE will lead the restorative justice work, including an RJ Director and two Restorative Justice Facilitators (RJF) – to be hired. Thrive Central Oregon will provide holistic support and direct access to services through a dedicated Support Specialist (SS). A public defender from Deschutes Defenders represents the legal interests of the Responsible Parties (RPs) and provides legal guidance throughout the process and after should an RP fail to graduate. The DA's Office provides the cases, the Deputy District Attorney (DDA), Victim Advocate (VA), Program Coordinator, and grant administration through a program manager.

The EAP is grounded in restorative dialogue and values-based communication. Staff will model and use restorative language in internal meetings and client interactions, creating shared agreements that guide communication and engagement. The team will engage in ongoing training to strengthen RJ practice—focusing on language, presence, and inclusive behavior—and will track team goals to measure implementation progress. Program materials will be updated to reflect lessons learned from earlier phases and support consistency across all staff and client touchpoints.

The EAP process:

**CASE SELECTION** - Police reports involving 18- to 25-year-olds are screened by the EAP DDA and then reviewed by the full team. If a case appears suitable for the EAP, the RP is contacted through the public defender, and the Harmed Party (HP) is engaged by the Victim Advocate.

**ENROLLMENT to GRADUATION** – Eligible RPs are invited to attend an orientation to learn more and decide with the defense attorney, whether to voluntarily enroll in this 6-month program. After enrollment, the RP will: 1) Engage in pre-dialogue preparation with an RJF, 2) Accept responsibility; 3) Participate in facilitated restorative dialogues; 4) Maintain regular check-ins with a Support Specialist for service and resource connection; 5) Complete a personalized RJ plan; and 6) Not acquire any new criminal charges. Successful completion of the program results in a no-file outcome, meaning the case is never formally charged.

**HP INVOLVEMENT** - HPs are informed of the program and invited to participate at their comfort level. HPs may: 1) Attend an HP orientation, 2) Participate in the restorative dialogue, 3) Receive case updates from the VA, and/or 4) Offer input into the RPs' restorative plan, either directly or through alternative formats.

Through structured dialogue and holistic support, the EAP builds a restorative path forward for emerging adults, offering accountability without conviction, and the opportunity for both healing and reintegration for their harmed parties, and the RP.

#### **4. What training will staff and Restorative Justice facilitators receive? [250 words or less] - 212 words**

Between now and the launch of Phase 3 in October 2025, Restorative Justice & Equity (RJE), our new RJ partner, will observe EAP circles and meet individually with each team member to identify both personal and group challenges. Insights gathered during this period will inform the design of a comprehensive training plan, developed in partnership with Culture of Care. Initial training topics will likely include an introduction or refresher on restorative practices, circle facilitation (language, structure, and purpose), formal conferencing, trauma-informed approaches, and meditation and mindfulness practices tailored to legal system settings.

A full-team kickoff training will be held in October 2025 to establish shared expectations, common language, and consistent practice standards. Monthly Restorative Dialogue practice sessions will follow, incorporating real-time feedback from program implementation. These sessions will offer opportunities for skill refreshers, guided circle role-play, and rotation through various circle roles so all team members gain confidence and fluency in the entire process.

In addition to this core training, team members will have access to ongoing professional development through local workshops, state conferences, and other relevant continuing education. Topics will be selected to address team development as well as the evolving needs of Responsible Parties (RPs) and Harmed Parties (HPs). This layered, adaptive training approach will ensure that all staff and facilitators are continually supported in delivering high-quality, trauma-informed, and equity-driven restorative justice services.

#### **5. On average, how many staff hours do you anticipate needing for each participant/case? [250 words or less] - 210 words**

Cases selected for the Emerging Adult Program (EAP) typically require between 60 and 100 hours of staff time, with an estimated average of **70-80 hours per case**. The range reflects the diversity of eligible cases and the varying levels of support required by RPs and HPs. This estimate encompasses the full scope of individualized casework from selection through graduation.

Staff time includes activities such as case review and screening, outreach, and communication with RPs and HPs, pre-dialogue preparation, restorative circle facilitation, post-circle check-ins, support plan monitoring, team case review meetings, and—when applicable—expungement coordination. Each phase involves multiple staff roles, including the RJ Facilitators, Support Specialist, Victim Advocate, Public Defender, and Coordinator – all of whom will be employed as 0.5 FTEs.

The estimated time does not include hours dedicated to general program operations, evaluation, training, materials development, or administrative planning.

Given our target of enrolling at least 60 new EAP cases over 21 months—plus the continued support and resolution of active cases from Phase 2—we project that more than half of each team member’s weekly hours will be spent directly supporting individual cases.

These time investments reflect the program’s commitment to high-quality, trauma-informed, and relationship-based restorative justice practices that require meaningful staff engagement at every step.

**6. Provide a timeline of when program milestones and activities are anticipated to be completed. [250 words or less] – 250 words**

**2025 Q1 (Jul–Sep):**

Phase 2 activities will use RJ GAP funds - covering Thrive, Community Solutions (current RJ partner), and the DA’s Office enrolling cases through September. Gap funds will also cover Thrive & DA staff time to refine EAP processes, manuals, materials, and documents for Phase 3. Phase 3 funds will support a new service contract for RJ&E to begin planning and transition efforts.

**2025 Q2 (Oct–Dec):**

Phase 3 formally begins in October. Key milestones include shifting to Restorative Justice & Equity (RJ&E) as our new RJ partner, transitioning to a single service location at the Latino Community Association, hiring new RJ Facilitators, refining assessment tools, conducting a full-team kickoff training, and launching regular monthly circle practice sessions. The program will continue participant enrollment under our new structure and will host a semi-annual State of EAP stakeholder meeting.

**2026 Q3–Q6 (Jan–Dec):**

The program will continue enrolling and serving RPs & HPs. By April, we will produce and begin disseminating an informational video to help HPs understand the RJ process. We will conduct semi-annual reviews of participant surveys and host monthly team training. Half of the EAP team will attend the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice Conference; the other half will attend the NW Justice Forum. We will also engage local organizations to raise awareness of the EAP.

**2027 Q7–Q8 (Jan–Jun):**

We will continue facilitating RJ circles and staff training, assessing program outcomes, and securing funding to sustain the EAP beyond 2027.

## B. Engagement and Referrals

### 1. What is your service area? [50 words or less] - 49 words

Our primary service area is Deschutes County. Since Deschutes is a major shopping/recreation hub for all of Central Oregon, young adults from Crook and Jefferson who commit a crime in Deschutes are also eligible to participate in EAP. Thrive's organizational service area also already covers those counties.

### 2. Who are your community and system referral partners, and at what stage in the criminal legal or juvenile system do they occur? [500 words or less] - 265 words

The Emerging Adult Program (EAP) is a pre-charge initiative coordinated by the Deschutes County District Attorney's Office and implemented in partnership with community-based organizations. Restorative Justice & Equity (RJE) facilitates restorative dialogues, Thrive Central Oregon provides wraparound support, and Deschutes Defenders ensures counsel is available for RPs.

Restorative Justice & Equity Group [RJE] is a grassroots non-profit that has gained a reputation as a reliable, professionally competent, and thoughtful community service provider over the last eight years. RJE works with community groups to achieve common goals around racial justice through restorative practices.

Thrive Central Oregon meets with Central Oregonians to connect them with the help they are looking for. There are many resources in Central Oregon, but they can be difficult to access alone. Thrive uses a person-centered approach to services and is committed to promoting equity in Central Oregon.

The EAP activates at the earliest stage in the criminal legal process. When law enforcement submits a police report involving a young adult (ages 18–25), the DA's case management system flags the case and forwards it to the EAP-designated DDA for review. The DDA screens for basic eligibility (e.g., residence, age, charge type), guided by DA policy and EAP criteria.

If a young adult has already been cited or booked, the EAP DDA works to intervene before arraignment; however, post-arraignment referral is still possible. Successful completion of EAP in those cases results in dismissal and eligibility for expungement.

On average, 20 cases are reviewed monthly. About half are screened out due to charge type (e.g., domestic violence, Measure 11 offenses, Driving While Suspended), significant criminal history, eligibility for another program (e.g., Early Disposition Program), or residence outside the tri-county area. The remaining half undergo deeper

analysis, including requests for additional evidence, and assessment of program fit. Eligible cases are advanced for final review by the full EAP team.

By intervening early and engaging system and community partners in every step of the referral process, EAP ensures consistent, equitable, and timely access for eligible emerging adults.

**3. Who is eligible for service, how will they be screened, and what onboarding steps do new participants need to complete? Include type of cases (felony, misdemeanor, person crimes, non-person crimes), and other eligibility criteria. [500 words or less] - 313 words**

To participate in the EAP, an RP must be between the ages of 18 and 25 and reside in Deschutes, Jefferson, or Crook County. Eligibility is determined through a collaborative screening process led by the EAP Deputy District Attorney (DDA) in accordance with the District Attorney's Office's policies, procedures, and program philosophy.

The DDA ensures that only cases that would otherwise be charged are considered for EAP and assesses whether restorative justice is appropriate for the circumstances of each case. Not all technically eligible cases are suitable. For example, charges like Driving While Suspended typically lack meaningful opportunity for restorative outcomes. Additionally, cases may be diverted to more appropriate alternatives such as the Early Disposition Program, Domestic Violence Deferred Sentencing Program, Mental Health Court, or referred as violations per DA Office policy. The DDA retains discretion in making these determinations, but our community partners—Deschutes Defenders, RJ&E, and Thrive—are encouraged to provide input on any factors they believe the DA's Office should consider during eligibility determination.

Eligible case types include both misdemeanor and felony offenses, with the exception of Measure 11 crimes (Oregon's most serious felonies), sex offenses, and Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII), all of which are categorically excluded. Prior criminal history does not automatically disqualify an RP, but significant or serious histories may be grounds for exclusion.

Victim (Harmed Party or HP) opposition does not automatically exclude a case, but the HP's concerns are weighed carefully as part of the eligibility review.

If selected, RPs are offered a voluntary opportunity to enroll. They are provided confidential consultation with a public defender, receive a program orientation, and complete an intake form and pre-survey before committing to participate. HPs are similarly offered an orientation and asked to complete an intake and survey. Both RPs

and HPs complete post-surveys following program participation to support continuous program evaluation.

**4. How will your program engage harmed parties, and what supports will be available to them? [250 words or less] - 250words**

EAP is committed to empowering HPs by offering meaningful choices in how they wish to engage. We strive to center their voices and increase participation by creating clear, respectful, and trauma-informed pathways into the restorative process. Our Victim Advocate (VA) currently attempts to contact all HPs by phone or email and mails an information packet detailing the EAP process, options for participation, and restitution forms. Once the RP is enrolled, the VA continues communication with the HP, unless they request otherwise to keep them informed and to solicit RJ plan contributions.

Those practices will continue, and the EAP team will attempt to contact each HP at least three times prior to the RP's enrollment using an enhanced script to explain the restorative process, gather HP input, and offer THRIVE resources. An informational video will also be created and shared with the HPs to better demonstrate what RJ is and what to expect from the process.

In addition, an RJ Facilitator and the Support Specialist will connect with the HPs to ensure their needs, questions, and expectations are addressed. HPs will also be provided with additional time to contribute to the development of the RP's Restorative Justice Plan before it is finalized, allowing both parties to reflect on proposed actions and outcomes. If costs to participate (time off from work/childcare) would prevent participation a stipend can be provided.

Finally, more prep, practice opportunities, and structured feedback will be provided to improve how the team supports HPs throughout this experience.

**5. How many clients were referred to you or do you anticipate being referred to you during the last biennium (2023 – 2025)?**

Between July 2023 and April 2025, 93 RPs were referred to the EAP. We anticipate another 5-8 cases being referred between May and the end of June 2025. Between July 2025 to June 2027, we anticipate approximately 125 cases being referred to the EAP.

***Of those, how many were served by your program, or do you anticipate serving?***

The EAP served 60 RPs between July 2023 and April 2025 and anticipates enrolling an additional four RPs prior to the end of June. During the next biennium, we anticipate enrolling at least 60 participants -- between 2 to 3 RPs per month.

***b. How many successfully completed the program or do you anticipate completing?***

As of April 30, 2025, the Emerging Adult Program (EAP) has served 95 responsible parties (RPs), representing a total of 98 individual cases since its inception in 2021. Of those, 67 RPs successfully completed the program, 16 remain active – 82% graduation rate. Two RPs voluntarily withdrew, and 13 were revoked—10 for non-compliance and 3 due to a new criminal offense. Among all RPs who either graduated or were revoked, 12 have recidivated to date. We anticipate similar results during the next biennium.

***c. How many are still receiving services from the program?***

As of April 30, 2025, 16 RPs were actively enrolled and receiving services, and we anticipate enrolling 10 additional RPs in Phase 2 before the end of September. Program graduates remain eligible for support, and several have reconnected with our Support Specialist post-completion. Our partnership with Thrive Central Oregon ensures that even RPs who do not complete the program—or if EAP-specific funding lapses—can continue accessing services. Thrive offers ongoing support through its broader community programs and specializing in helping community members connect with critical resources, including housing, leveraging the relationships built during their time in EAP.

**6. In the previous biennium, did you encounter any challenges or barriers that impacted the number of clients you served? For implementation applicants, do you anticipate any challenges or barriers that may impact your ability to meet enrollment goals? [500 words or less]**

While we did not experience major challenges that limited the number of responsible parties (RPs) we could serve, our original two-track program design did result in delays in getting participants into their initial restorative dialogue.

One ongoing challenge has been fully engaging harmed parties (HPs), which is common in pre-charge programs like EAP. Many cases lack a clear, individual victim, and participation in the restorative process is voluntary. In addition, we believe that for some HPs on eligible EAP case there are participation barriers due to taking time off from work and general uncertainty about the process can limit involvement.

***6a. If so, what steps are you taking to address those barriers and meet enrollment goals? [250 words or less]***

To address past delays between enrollment and the initial circle, while also ensuring RPs are better prepared, the EAP will transition from a two-track model to a unified process and shift from relying on volunteers to hiring permanent Restorative Justice Facilitators who will prep all participants.

To increase HP involvement, EAP is expanding and personalizing its outreach. For business victims, our Victim Advocate (VA) will not only reach out by phone and email but may also conduct in-person visits to encourage engagement—an approach that proved successful in our other community outreach work. EAP will also test small stipends to help offset any costs associated with participation, such as time off work, childcare, or travel.

To strengthen understanding and trust in the process, we are developing a short video explaining the EAP model and the role HPs can play. Additionally, we are increasing the number of HP touchpoints throughout the program, not just with the Victim Advocate, but also with the Support Specialist and RJ Facilitators. These steps aim to build stronger connections and provide HPs with flexible and meaningful opportunities to participate.

## C. Program data and outcomes

### 1. What does successful completion look like for your program? [500 words or less]

Successful completion of the EAP for an RP, involves the young adult taking accountability for the incident, participating in an orientation and a circle preparation meeting, completing a restorative justice (RJ) agreement over a six-month-period, avoiding new criminal charges, attending all RJ circles in person with one permitted to be virtual, and maintaining regular monthly contact—by phone, Zoom, or in person—with the program's Support Specialist.

The EAP program looks at success on two levels – one being the pure numbers (i.e. success of the cases in the program) - Enrolling at least 30 young adults per year, 2) Continuing a 75% or higher graduation rate, and 3) Maintaining an arrest recidivism rate of 25% or less for program participants. The other is measuring the program's impact on RPs, HPs, and the community. We are striving to see a measurable increase in HP participation in the program. We also want to begin to see through survey data that the program is building personal agency among our RPs and HPs in a way that they feel more personally empowered and more satisfied about the situation from where they were when they entered the program. Those metrics will help us determine the program's long-term impact on the community.

To collect and assess this impact, we will be updating and expanding EAP's evaluation efforts. We will work with an external evaluator to revise our current pre/post survey to effectively measure these points. We will also have participants complete a short survey

after each restorative dialogue. These mini surveys will not only provide additional data to help us better understand our participant's growth in the program, but they will also aid us in gathering additional feedback from RPs who discontinue or are revoked from the program. Currently, we have a zero-survey response rate among RPs who did not complete the program.

The EAP also collects and evaluates data on our HPs and RPs through an intake form, which helps us glean basic information about our participants, such as preferred pronouns, education level, marriage and parental status, veteran status, living situation, employment, disability, and even if they have a driver's license. This information helps prepare the team and informs our Support Specialist of what type of resources may be needed immediately. In addition, through this database, we also track RP progress through and HP involvement in the program. The team tracks HP & RP touch points/communications, RP progress, HP feedback, critical program dates (referral, enrollment, circles, graduation or revocation), restitution payments, and level and type of support provided. All this information is collected and maintained in a database outside of the DA's Office and case management system to ensure confidentiality.

The DA's case management system is used to obtain referred cases as it provides the team with details about the incident and information on the RP and HPs. That system also enables us to track RP recidivism.

## **2. Are clients offered support services after they "graduate"? Yes/no**

Yes

## **3. What data will you collect to demonstrate your program's success? Methods may include participant and staff pre- and post- surveys, service data, recidivism rates, etc. [500 words or less] - 460 words**

The Emerging Adult Program (EAP) collects and analyzes a range of data to assess program effectiveness, participant experiences, and areas for improvement. Data collection begins at case screening and continues through program completion, with strict protocols in place to maintain confidentiality and ensure informed consent.

Participant and case-level information—such as demographics, charge type, and law enforcement narratives—is entered into a dedicated EAP database to keep records separate from other systems. RPs and HPs each complete a comprehensive intake form to support service planning and track baseline needs. We also document the number and type of restorative justice circles, all participant contacts, restitution payment and distribution, and the support services, resources, and funding provided throughout the program.

All RPs complete a Release of Information (ROI) form so staff can coordinate care across agencies. Additionally, we are developing a voluntary release form to allow RPs and HPs to share their stories and program feedback publicly, helping communicate the value of restorative justice and deepen community understanding.

Surveys are administered to RPs, HPs, staff, and stakeholders at multiple points throughout the program. An external evaluator designs these pre- and post-surveys to assess changes in knowledge, accountability, empowerment, and satisfaction. The evaluator also conducts periodic interviews with staff, volunteers, and stakeholders to supplement the quantitative data with qualitative insights.

In addition to formal evaluation tools, the EAP team collects anecdotal evidence from real-time case observations, team debriefs, and peer-to-peer practice discussions. Team members take notes during circles and other touchpoints to document insights into participant growth, interpersonal dynamics, and emerging needs that may not be fully captured through surveys alone.

Recidivism is tracked through the District Attorney's case management system. We conduct routine reviews and pull criminal histories to monitor new arrests or charges for all program participants, regardless of outcome (graduation, withdrawal, or revocation).

Together, these data sources help us assess program quality and impact. We specifically analyze:

- The effectiveness of RJ Facilitators, Support Staff, and overall program coordination.
- Gaps in service delivery or training that may affect outcomes.
- Emerging needs of participants and the barriers they face.
- Trends in participant engagement, graduation rates, and reoffending.
- Feedback and satisfaction levels from HPs, RPs, and team members.

This information is used continuously to refine and improve the program. For example, previous analysis led to streamlining the EAP structure into a single track to reduce delays, hiring dedicated RJ staff, and expanding training for volunteers. Insights from participants also informed new supports, such as creating an EAP demonstration video and piloting monthly HP orientation sessions.

By collecting data that reflects both measurable outcomes and authentic human experiences, the EAP remains responsive, transparent, and committed to growth—ensuring the program evolves to better meet the needs of HPs, RPs, and the communities we serve.

**4. Explain what data on outcomes you have gathered/achieved in the last biennium. [250 words or less]**

With regards to outcomes, the EAP currently has a 12% recidivism rate – compared to the 18-to-30-year-olds (2023/1<sup>st</sup>) arrest recidivism rates for Deschutes County (1 Year – 21.8%; 3 Year – 58.2%). Our recidivism rate takes into account pilot program participants, some enrolled in the EAP in 2021.

Our pre/post-survey results indicated at our midterm point (Fall 2024) with 23 post-surveys completed that EAP was moving in the right direction to achieve our program outcomes. Eighty-three percent of our participants felt well prepared for the RJ process by the post-survey, and 91% felt very satisfied with the RJ process. In addition, compared to the pre-survey, we saw a 70% increase in RPs stating they felt very empowered after going through EAP, and 100% of our RPs responded in the post-survey that they felt somewhat (8%) to very (92%) respected during the RJ process. Finally, 87% felt very positive about the experience at the end compared to only 55% in the pre-survey.

**5. Is there anything else you would like to share about the proposed program, including any information that is important to include that was not addressed above? [500 words or less]**

While the program is administered out of the District Attorney's Office it is a community-based RJ program, and the entire EAP team is dedicated to the program's success and the principles and practices of restorative justice.

Team Information - Stephen our EAP Victim Advocate, served as a victim advocate for the DA's Office for over five years, before switching over to be the dedicated advocate for EAP a year ago. Stephen helped launch the EAP pilot back in 2021. Sarah our DDA, has only been in this position for three months, but was a former EAP defense attorney and has experience working on non-profit grant programs that support legal, education & advocacy work for immigrants and refugees. Amy, our program coordinator, joined the team with a Master's in Public Health and has been part of the EAP team for almost two years. She has extensive experience coordinating community programs across the country. Kathleen, our program manager, has over two decades of experience managing specialty programs and grants. Our new Thrive Support Specialist, Joe, who just joined the team in May is bilingual and asked to be our prior support specialist's replacement. Leslie, our defense attorney, has been supporting the program and our RPs consistently for almost two years. Sorahi, RJE Executive Director joins the team with extensive experience as an RJ practitioner that spans school and community work. In addition, when recruiting for our new RJ Facilitators we will be looking for individuals with experience in the RJ field, and ideally individuals with lived experience.

The EAP program includes a Life Support Fund to help ensure the basic needs of our RPs and HPs are being met to increase the likelihood that the RP will be successful in the program and that the HP is also in a stable situation. Those funds can be used to provide immediate access to food, transportation, housing stability, and communication. They can be used to assist an RP or HP to take a class, help with childcare, complete a certificate, or attend therapy. In addition, the funds can also be used to provide a stipend when needed to assist an HP in being able to participate in a circle.

The EAP also has a small Restitution Fund. This fund ensures that an HP can still be made whole if an RP is actively engaging in the program and has attempted to pay any owed restitution, but full payment would cause instability in the RPs life.

Finally, we anticipate by June 30, 2027, the EPA will have enrolled a total of 152 RPs due to the RJ grant funds. Assuming we achieve our goal of maintaining at least a 75% graduation rate, a minimum of 114 young adults will have avoided conviction due to the EAP RJ grant program.

## D. Program Priorities

**1. Does your program offer services or intend to offer services that engage in and serve rural or other historically underserved regions or areas in Oregon? [check box with text response if yes – If yes, please provide details 150 words or less] - 112 words**

**YES**

While Bend and Redmond are considered suburban communities and constitute the majority of our program participants due to the size of the community's populations, a number of our participants (HPs & RPs) reside in rural areas of Deschutes County, as well as in neighboring Crook and Jefferson Counties—both of which are classified as rural.

To better serve historically underserved communities, we have translated all key program documents into Spanish and provide interpreter services throughout the entire EAP process when English is not the primary language. Our Support Specialist is also bilingual, ensuring more accessible communication and support.

Additionally, a significant number of our participants face socio-economic disadvantages, and we intentionally design our services to meet the needs of those experiencing financial instability, housing insecurity, and limited access to traditional support systems. It is why the EAP program has a restitution and support fund.

**2. Does your program offer services or intend to offer services that engage and provide culturally appropriate services to socially disadvantaged individual(s)? [check box with text response if yes – If yes, please provide details in 150 words or less] – 142 words**

Yes.

The majority of EAP participants needing culturally appropriate services community members whose first language is Spanish. To support them, we've translated all core program materials into Spanish and hired interpreters to assist with restorative circles. With our program updates, EAP will be co-located in the Latino Community Association's building to increase accessibility and cultural connection.

Staff and community facilitators receive ongoing training on inclusive practices, including working with neurodivergent participants and using affirming language, such as pronouns.

We also intentionally partner with Thrive Central Oregon for their expertise in supporting socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and our Support Specialist is bilingual. Many participants face barriers such as food insecurity, unstable housing, or lack of access to communication tools. Life Support Funds are critical to helping participants overcome these challenges—ensuring they are not only able to participate but can build a stable foundation for long-term success.

**3. Does your program currently partner or intend to partner with a researcher or research entity to track and report on any outcome measures associated with the applicant's program? [check box with text response if yes – If yes, please provide details in 150 words or less]**

Yes.

Greg Stewart is a researcher through Portland State University, who has worked with EAP on Phase 2 to develop surveys, analyze program data, and provide outcome reporting. Greg brings valuable expertise in evaluation design and ensures that participant data is anonymized and analyzed with rigor. He recently informed us of his plans to retire in the next two to three years, so we are proactively exploring options to either continue working with him during this transition or to establish a relationship with a new research partner. We believe it is essential to work with an experienced evaluator who can ensure our tools are effective and culturally appropriate, and who can help us draw meaningful insights from both qualitative and quantitative data to guide program improvement.

**4. Does your program address or intend to address case types as defined in OAR 213-003-0001(14) and OAR 213-003-001(15) (definitions describing person**

**felonies and person misdemeanors)? [check box with text response if yes – If yes, please provide details in 150 words or less]**

Yes.

Emerging adults (ages 18–25) with person felonies and misdemeanors, as defined in OAR 213-003-0001(14) and (15), are preliminarily eligible for the Emerging Adult Program (EAP). As of April 30, 2025, we have enrolled 26 participants with pending person felony or person misdemeanor charges, accounting for a total of 39 qualifying charges.

**5. Does your program address or intend to address case types that carry a presumptive sentence of prison pursuant to the criteria in OAR 213-004-0001 through OAR 213-004-0013 (describing the sentencing guidelines grid)? [check box with text response if yes – If yes, please provide details in 150 words or less] – 40 words**

Yes.

The only cases automatically excluded from EAP include Measure 11 and sexual assault. As of the end of April 2025, EAP had enrolled 25 participants with felony cases to the program, which represents 33 felony counts referred into the program.

**6. Does your program prioritize funding for direct services to the party harmed and the person who committed the harm? [check box with text response if yes – If yes, please provide details in 150 words or less] – 128 words**

Yes

The EAP prioritizes funding for direct services to both the RP and the HP.

RPs are required to connect with our EAP Support Specialist at least once per month during the program. Both enrolled participants and successful graduates remain eligible to receive ongoing support, access program funds, and be referred to additional services as needed.

All HPs are also eligible for these services. Although uptake has been limited to date, we are working to increase engagement. Moving forward, both our Support Specialist and Victim Advocate will conduct personalized outreach to each HP to ensure they are aware of and can access available supports. Our goal is to ensure that every participant—whether harmed or responsible—has access to the resources they need to heal, stabilize, and move forward.

**7. Does your program disqualify program participants based on prior criminal history? [check box with text response if no– If no, please provide details in 150 words or less] – 98 words**

No.

Prior criminal history is not an automatic disqualifier. Most of our participants have prior juvenile and/or adult criminal history. We expanded EAP eligibility in Phase 2 after initially limiting participation to individuals with only juvenile records during the pilot phase, which restricted referrals too much.

While we do not disqualify participants solely based on their record, individuals with extensive prior criminal history may be screened out if we determine the program does not have the necessary resources or wraparound services to support their successful participation or ensure the safety and well-being of the harmed party.

### Data Attestation

**Collect and submit to CJC program information, including but not limited to expenditures, outcome measures, program evaluations, demographic information pertaining to eligible and enrolled participants, satisfaction metrics for both the responsible and harmed parties, and data collected in partnership with a researcher or research entity.”**

Yes