

Economic Opportunity Program Portland



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Economic Opportunity Program (EOP) is a cornerstone of our community-based approach. EOP focuses on **breaking down barriers for those who need it most**, including low-income residents, those experiencing homelessness or housing instability, and individuals with prior justice involvement. By combining long-term, relationship-based career coaching with employment resources, EOP helps participants achieve stability, job readiness, and sustainable careers.

The Portland Economic Opportunity Program (Portland EOP) supports community members who face significant barriers to employment.

Career coaches support justice-involved individuals, legal immigrants and refugees, those in recovery, and any Portland residents earning 0-50% of area median income (AMI). It is the longest-running EOP program.

Portland EOP provides each participant with a robust and complementary suite of services that exceeds what any organization could do individually.

SERVICES INCLUDE

- Career coaching
- Career mapping and resource planning
- Support services for job training and job search activities
- Facilitated access to WorkSource centers
- Centralized support services like rent assistance
- Training scholarships at WorkSource centers

BY THE NUMBERS: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

684 Participants served

58%

Identify as Black, indigenous,
or People of Color

37%

Have prior justice
involvement

84%

Exited Portland EOP with
unsubsidized employment

48%

Obtained career-track employment

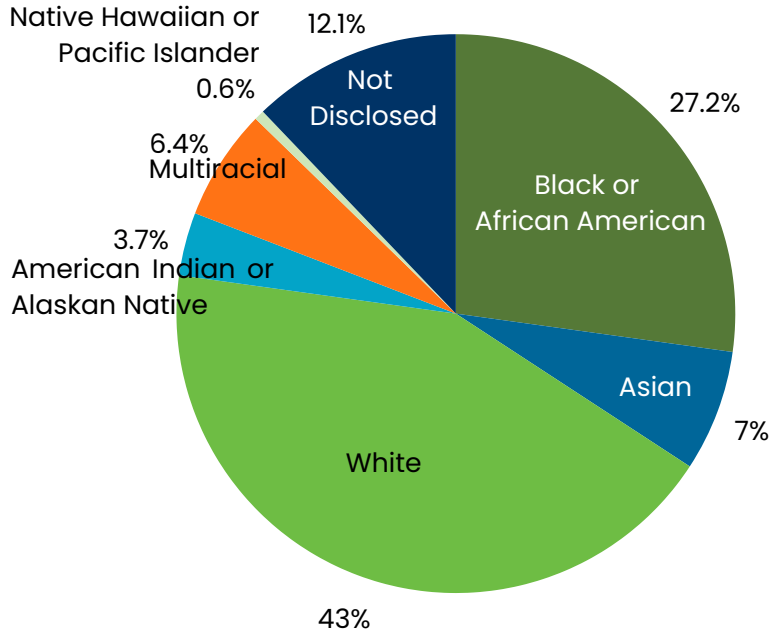
56%

Advanced in employment

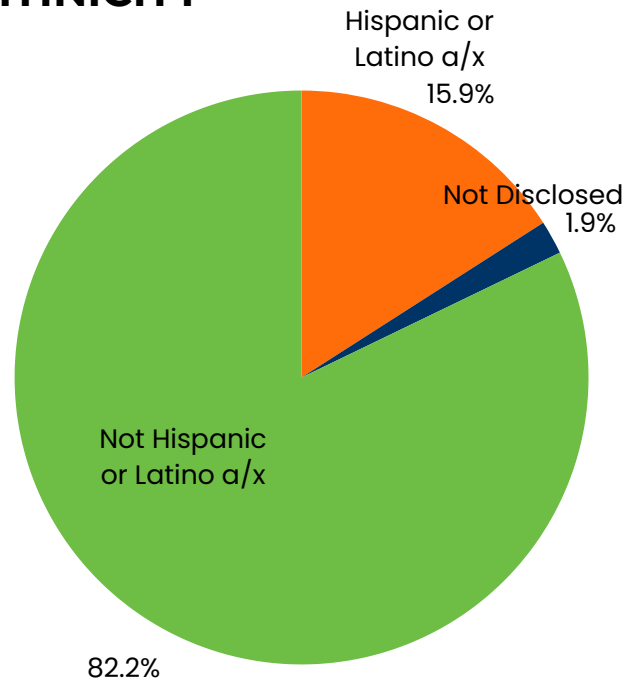
Portland EOP Demographics



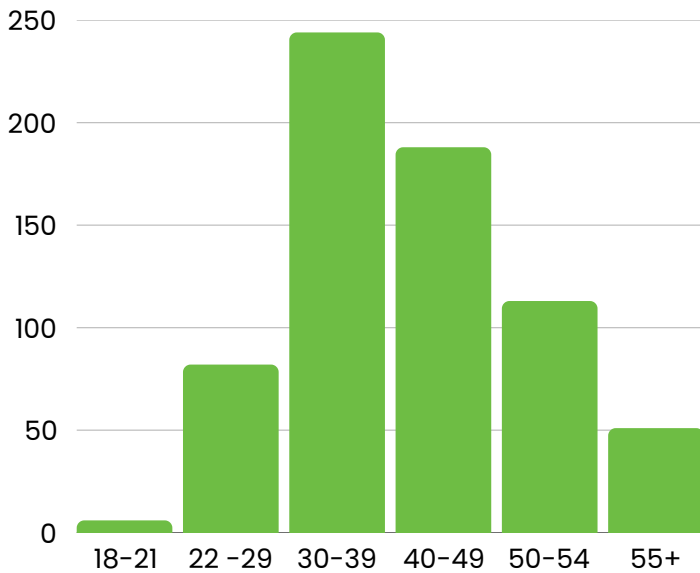
RACE



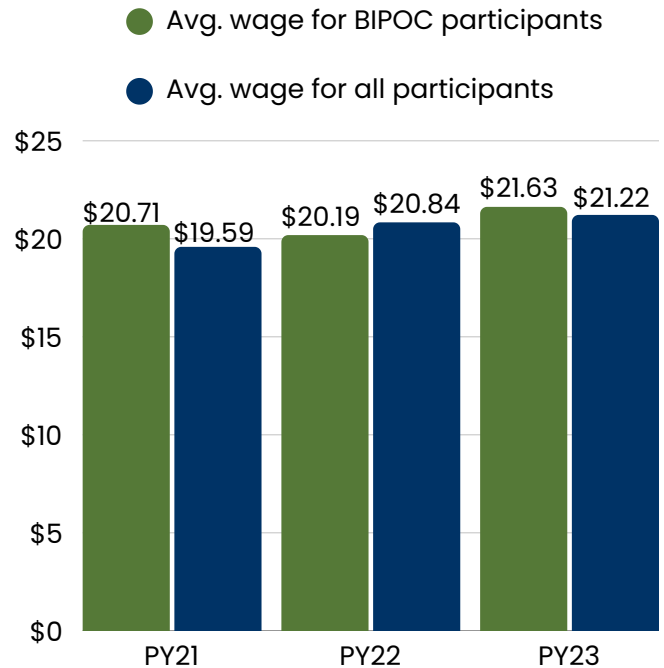
ETHNICITY



AGE



AVERAGE WAGES UPON EXIT



For more information, visit [worksystems.org](https://www.worksystems.org) or contact Deanna DSouza, Worksystems Community Programs Manager at ddsouza@worksystems.org or 503-478-7359.

Portland EOP Funding, Partners & Participants



FUNDER	BUDGET
Prosper Portland	\$1,077,931
Worksystems	\$456,526
TOTAL	\$1,534,457

COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICE PROVIDERS



SUCCESS STORY: A Path to Stability and Fulfillment

TF arrived at Central City Concern's downtown Employment Access Center ready to move forward in recovery and into the next phase of their life. Through Portland EOP and partners, TF received critical financial support for essentials like rent, work clothing, and phone service. These supports weren't just helpful—they were life-changing. They allowed TF to stabilize their housing and focus on rebuilding their life.

The impact extended beyond financial assistance. TF took full advantage of career services, including resume development and personalized career mapping sessions with a career coach. Together, they worked to find a job that offered both financial security and personal fulfillment—**ultimately helping TF obtain a living wage and no longer rely on public assistance.**

Today, TF works for a local fencing company, building and repairing fences—an active, hands-on job they find deeply satisfying.

From day one, TF's determination and work ethic have been clear. With the right support and resources, they've stepped into a place of stability, confidence, and self-sufficiency. Their journey is a powerful reminder of what's possible when we invest in people—not just with funding, but with trust, guidance, and opportunity.