

EOWB Policy #: P-018	Effective Date: 04-15-2024
Youth Protection Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Revised – Date:
Page 1 of 2	

PURPOSE

The purpose of EOWB’s Youth Protection Policy is to keep the youth served by our programs and funds safe. It includes youth protection protocols, guidelines for reporting incidents, steps for preventing abuse, training for EOWB staff and volunteers, the rules we follow for using information in print and web materials and safety measures for adult-youth interactions.

POLICY

Youth protection is a necessity and a top priority at EOWB. Helping break the cycle of poverty involves much more than providing access to education and training services and workforce engagement opportunities. It entails working toward the holistic well-being of every youth we interact with. And that means keeping them safe.

EOWB:

- Has zero-tolerance for abuse of any kind.
- Protects the rights and best interests of its staff, volunteers, and interns.
- Encourages educating and empowering youth on their rights, personal safety, and steps they can take, if there is a problem.

REPORTING INCIDENTS

For all reported child-abuse incidents, EOWB requires that the child’s best interest be the priority. In addition, all incidents must be dealt with promptly, and they must be handled in a confidential manner that does not harm the victim or the person reporting the abuse.

PREVENTING ABUSE

Preventing abuse entirely is the goal of EOWB and its staff, volunteers, and service providers must do everything they can to reduce the likelihood of abuse as much as possible to help ensure children’s safety. This is done in several ways:

- Training youth, staff, and volunteers on how to identify and prevent child abuse.
- Educating youth that participate in EOWB programs on their rights, personal-safety methods, and steps they can take in case of a problem.
- Encouraging and supporting youth, staff, and service providers to report cases of abuse promptly to the proper authorities.
- Incorporating child protection information into other EOWB programs. In this way, we reach a broader audience and reemphasize the importance of protecting children.
- Allowing eastern Oregon youth the opportunity to participate in programs regardless of gender, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, religion, or any other protected status.

EOWB STAFF AND VOLUNTEER TRAINING

All field staff and volunteers are required to review our Youth Protection Policy and any program-specific youth protection protocols. All new employees must also commit to following the policy and protocols.

EOWB COMMUNICATIONS

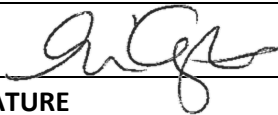
All individuals featured in EOWB materials must consent (or their parents or guardians must consent) to us using their image or story prior to publication. Some of the measures EOWB take to protect youth include:

- Never using images of inappropriately clothed children.
- Not publicly disclosing a child's last name, personal address or other information that could be used to locate a child.
- Not publishing or sharing personally identifiable information, unless the family or individual has given us written consent.

INTERACTION BETWEEN EOWB STAFF OR SERVICE PROVIDERS AND YOUTH

It's a sensitive subject, to be sure, but we absolutely must look out for the safety and best interests of our youth. Because of this, we have measures in place to make youth programs safe:

- Staff, volunteers, and youth agree not to connect via social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- We require a background check for the staff of EOWB and its service providers, and for all volunteers 18 and older who will be meeting any youth through any means including in-person, phone, video, etc. All youth information is kept confidential and secure.

DATE APPROVED by Board of Directors: <u>06/10/2024</u>	Erin Carpenter, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic <input type="checkbox"/> Board Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	 SIGNATURE
EFFECTIVE DATE: <u>04/15/2024</u>	<u>6/11/2024</u> Date