

Lane County selected for model program to employ local youth

By Andrew Nachison
Emerald Contributor

Uneducated, untrained, unemployed and under 25.

They are unenviable circumstances but a fact of life for people in many communities. A new program scheduled to begin by July 1, 1990 will give Lane County youth struggling with such burdens a chance to improve their situation.

A \$10,000 grant awarded to Looking Glass Youth and Family Services, Inc. of Eugene will be used to plan a model youth program called Lane Metro Youth Service Corps. Eugene/Springfield is one of 23 sites selected from a field of 52 to participate in the national demonstration project.

Lane Metro Youth Service Corps will provide paid work experience for Lane County youth, ages 15 to 23, who are out of school and have little or no work experience. The grant allows Eugene/Springfield to

remain in competition for additional start-up funding of the youth corps program.

Members of the youth corps will be required to work toward completing their high school or equivalency requirements, if they have not done so already. They also may receive technical training. They will work on service projects of importance to the community such as housing rehabilitation, city beautification and new construction.

The grant was awarded by Public/Private Ventures, an organization that sponsors joint ventures between public and private agencies. Public/Private Ventures is funded by public and private sources.

Looking Glass Youth and Family Services, Inc. provides a variety of human services to children, youth and families, including counseling, employment, adolescent residential treatment, crisis intervention and shelter care programs. It primarily serves Lane County.

"What we received was a

planning grant," said Cheri Brokaw, director of development at Looking Glass. "The grant was to take us one step further, planning an urban youth service corps."

Brokaw stressed the significance of the project because of the widespread cooperation between public and private agencies within Lane County.

"We've worked very closely with the local public agencies — the city government, the county government, EWEB (Eugene Water and Electric Board), and others," Brokaw said.

"The idea for the youth service corps is that young people could be put to work doing jobs that they would be paid for. They would be doing commu-

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