



Contact

Jaclyn Hawse, Director of Communications
808-285-9262
jhawse@rysehawaii.org

Residential Youth Services & Empowerment to Expand Support for Oahu Families Experiencing Homelessness with \$2.5 Million Grant from Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez Bezos
32 organizations across the U.S. receive a total of \$102.5 million from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund to connect families with housing and hope

HONOLULU – (December 1, 2025): Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE), a non-profit organization committed to addressing youth homelessness by providing comprehensive, wraparound services that includes shelter, food, healthcare, education and employment support, today announced that Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez Bezos are recognizing the organization with a \$2.5 million grant from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund. This investment is the largest gift in the nonprofit’s history. RYSE is part of the eighth annual cohort of organizations across the country receiving funding from the Day 1 Families Fund to deepen their work to help every family have a safe, stable place to call home.

“This funding allows us to be intentional about meeting youth and their families where they are,” said Carla Houser, executive director of RYSE. “By creating safe, stable housing and consistent adult support for young parents, we’re helping to break cycles of homelessness while empowering youth to build strong, independent futures, right within their own communities.”

RYSE will use its Day 1 Families Fund grant to serve even more families experiencing homelessness on Oahu, with the goal of ensuring no child in our community sleeps outside. This one-time grant will be used over the next five years to develop supportive housing programs that serve young families by creating spaces where children can be raised safely and with dignity. These programs will integrate early childhood education and family-centered services, strengthened through strategic community partnerships.

RYSE was identified to receive this grant by a group of national advisors who are leading advocates and bring expertise on homelessness, housing policy and effective approaches and solutions to family homelessness.

“Many of the youth we work with face the heartbreaking choice of staying on the streets rather than leaving their parents or caregivers. This grant allows us to address that directly, keeping families together and creating housing solutions that move family units off the streets and into stability within their own communities,” said Ana Eykel, senior housing manager.

Since its inception in 2018, the Day 1 Families Fund has awarded 280 grants totaling more than \$850 million to organizations serving families in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam. The Day 1 Families Fund grant recipients have tremendous flexibility to use the funds in the ways that are most impactful in their communities, making the grant a game-changer for organizations on the

frontlines of the family homelessness crisis. Recipients will use their funds to support families experiencing homelessness to access critical services, regain stable housing and achieve well-being.

This year, the Fund issued a total of \$102.5 million in grants to 32 organizations. The full list of awardees is available at <https://bezosdayonefund.org/day1familiesfund>. Case studies of the impact selected grantees have made with their funds are available at <https://www.bazosdayonefund.org/case-studies>.

About Residential Youth Services & Empowerment

Residential Youth Support & Empowerment (RYSE) is a non-profit organization founded in 2018 that services opportunity youth in Hawaii, through empowerment and personalized support. Youth, ages 14-24, are welcome for drop-in services from 6am – 6pm at the access center, seven days a week, and have access to safe and temporary living spaces specifically designed to address their unique needs.

Beyond shelter, RYSE offers a comprehensive range of services, including counseling and mentoring, education and life skills training, and case management and advocacy. RYSE is dedicated to helping youth overcome challenges, build resilience and achieve their full potential.

Together, we are dedicated to empowering youth, building futures and creating positive change. For more information, visit rysehawaii.org.

About the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund

Through the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund, Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez Bezos issue annual leadership awards to organizations doing compassionate, needle-moving work to help families experiencing homelessness. For more information, visit www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund.

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