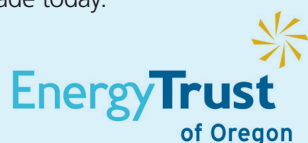


Connections

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Avista Foundation helps Community Works support youth in Jackson County

Helping young people transition from surviving to thriving.

Since 2018, Erin Martin-Fournier has helped young people build safer, more stable lives in Jackson County. As advocacy services director for Community Works, she leads programs that support youth and young adults facing homelessness due to domestic violence, sexual violence or trafficking.

Community Works has served the region for more than 30 years, providing support services, shelter and housing to more than 2,000 adults and children. Its 24/7 help line reaches about 12,000 people each year. Many of the youth they serve have experienced years of trauma. "Serious mental health challenges often show up between ages 18 and 24," Erin said. "That's why we work with young people ages 15 to 24."

For teens, mentoring offers steady, in-person support. They meet weekly with mentors to build safety plans, set goals and stay engaged in school. In some cases, a mentor may be the only trusted adult in their life.

For young adults, Community Works offers transitional housing. In an eight-unit complex, residents pay reduced rent based on income while working toward a GED, college or a job.

"For many of them, this is the first time they've had a safe, stable place to live," Erin said.



Continued on back





Continued from front

Avista Foundation helps Community Works

Residents can stay up to two years before moving into independent housing, opening space for someone else in need. Community Works also offers life skills classes and survivor support to help clients build a strong foundation. "Once they feel safe, they can move from surviving to thriving," Erin said.

This work depends on strong community partnerships. Support from the Avista Foundation helps keep these programs available.

Visit community-works.org for more information and to see how you can help.

Know what's below: Excess flow valves



An Excess Flow Valve (EFV) is a device that automatically limits the flow of natural gas if an underground pipe is damaged or broken. This can happen during digging or excavation. The EFV is installed underground on the service pipeline that runs between the natural gas main (usually near the street, alley, or easement) and the Avista meter on the customer's property. Typically, the EFV is installed as close as possible to the natural gas main.

EFVs have been installed on most new and replaced natural gas customer services since 2008. However, since April 2017, existing natural gas customers without an EFV can choose to have one installed at their own request and expense. Installation costs vary due to different conditions in our service area. Customers will be billed for actual labor and materials costs associated with the installation. Estimates for cost and timeframe for construction will be provided as requested on a case-by-case basis. There is no ongoing maintenance cost for the customer.

Whether you have an EFV installed or not, you need to call 811 to have all underground utility lines properly marked at least two business days before starting any digging projects.

If you would like to pursue having an EFV installed in your service line or find out if you already have an EFV, please call us at (800) 227-9187 or email us at AskAvista@myavista.com.



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Help with your energy bill is available

If you're feeling the pinch, you're not alone. Avista offers support when you need it. From flexible payment plans to energy assistance, there are options for qualifying customers. You can also explore home energy upgrades that may help reduce your monthly costs.

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