

Department: Joint Office of Homeless Services **Program Contact:** Marc Jolin
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

The Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) recognizes diversion as a critical strategy to reduce the number of people experiencing street and shelter homelessness in the community. In order to advance our commitment to achieving racial equity, an essential focus of this programming must be to eliminate disparate rates of homelessness on the basis of race and ethnicity. This program offer funds existing capacity to divert people from homelessness who are escaping domestic violence, facing imminent housing loss, or are exiting the criminal justice and healthcare systems. This program will divert hundreds of people from street and shelter homelessness.

Program Summary

Diversion programs vary by implementation, but have in common the assessment of an individual who is facing living on the streets or in shelter to determine whether they have a housing option they could access with a modest, one-time, financial and/or staffing investment. Diversion is recognized nationally and locally as a critical tool in reducing street and shelter homelessness.

- Family Diversion has been a successful intervention for both preventing families from coming to emergency shelter and moving families out of shelter quickly. All families are surveyed to determine if they have an immediate housing option and, if so, diversion resources are used to help them capitalize on that opportunity.
- DV Diversion services focus on preventing homelessness and diverting domestic violence survivors and their children from shelters through eviction prevention or housing placement. Diversion services offer flexible, rapid responses that allow survivors to avoid the trauma and safety risks of becoming homeless. These services reach hundreds of survivors annually and serve a diverse population, with 82% identifying as People of Color.
- Hospital Diversion partners with the hospital system to provide essential rental assistance and care coordination resources to hospital discharge workers to allow patients to discharge to housing options and not to the streets or shelter.
- Transportation Assistance diverts individuals from the streets and shelter through one-time transportation assistance to a location where they have a verified housing option. Most commonly this program reunites individuals with family in other communities.
- Benefit Assistance serves homeless and formerly homeless individuals with assistance in securing Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), and/or Medicaid and Medicare benefits. These benefits provide critical financial and health care resources that allow recipients to avoid homelessness.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budgeted	FY22 Estimate	FY23 Offer
Output	Number of participants receiving diversion services	1,377	1,640	1,170	1,170
Outcome	Percentage of exits to permanent housing*	76%	86%	76%	80%
Outcome	Number of people served with benefits acquisition assistance (BEST)	461	450	480	480
Outcome	BIPOC participate in program at rate as high or higher than percent of HUD homeless population	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Performance Measures Descriptions

The COVID-19 pandemic, which began in FY 2020, has significantly impacted the performance measures associated with this program offer.

*This measure excludes BEST, Health Connections and Peer Health Navigators.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2022	2022	2023	2023
Contractual Services	\$1,126,110	\$1,381,700	\$1,172,050	\$1,358,940
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,126,110	\$1,381,700	\$1,172,050	\$1,358,940
Program Total:	\$2,507,810		\$2,530,990	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$1,381,700	\$0	\$1,358,940
Total Revenue	\$0	\$1,381,700	\$0	\$1,358,940

Explanation of Revenues

City of Portland General Fund \$1,358,940

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2022: 30500 Diversion Services