

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

Multnomah County is in a severe housing crisis and many low-income residents lack housing and/or economic stability. Having legal issues and/or not having financial resources to address them are roadblocks to overall stability and prevent access to housing, employment, education and community involvement. Black, Indigenous, Native and communities of color and people with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by debt and legal barriers because of systemic racism and discrimination. Expanding capacity for Legal Services Days and making them all virtual will increase participation and engagement.

Program Summary

ISSUE: Residents experiencing poverty, in particular people of color, experience discrimination and disproportionate contact with the criminal justice system. This systemic racism results in legal and financial barriers that prevent them from accessing housing, employment, education and other opportunities.

PROGRAM GOAL: Provide low barrier, easy access to virtual legal services in order to reduce legal barriers to safe housing, employment and educational opportunities.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: Provider will conduct outreach about Legal Services Days to communities of color disproportionately affected by the justice system including but not limited to outreach to culturally specific providers of County programs. They will also hold virtual legal service days and at least one in-person legal service day (pandemic permitting), for low income residents of Multnomah County. Throughout the pandemic the virtual legal service days have proven to be more effective in engaging more people of color than pre-pandemic in-person events. Travel to a site, waiting in line and re-arranging schedules are three areas that virtual events have become more available. Services provided shall include, but are not limited to: Reduction or waiver of fees and fines; expungement of convictions, arrests and dismissed cases; resolution of bench warrants; early termination of successful probation; dismissal of up to three TriMet fare violations; dismissal of marijuana violations; screening of records; driver's license restoration; navigation of court orders and obligations; reduction of qualifying marijuana convictions; review of open or pending cases and warrants; connection with community organizations for fulfillment of community service hours; approval of completion of community service hours; and other services as needed.

The full expungement process includes eligibility analysis, paperwork preparation, court filing, fingerprint processing, and representation at court if required.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budgeted	FY22 Estimate	FY23 Offer
Output	Number of participants engaged in services	N/A	700	814	700
Outcome	% of participants receiving legal advice or services resulting in barrier reduction	N/A	90%	100%	90%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Legal / Contractual Obligation**Revenue/Expense Detail**

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2022	2022	2023	2023
Contractual Services	\$211,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$211,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$211,000		\$250,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues**Significant Program Changes**

Last Year this program was: FY 2022: 25131C YFS - Legal Services Day Program Expansion