

Department: Joint Office of Homeless Services **Program Contact:** Joshua Bates
Program Offer Type: Existing **Program Offer Stage:** Adopted
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

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 JOHS's 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 Description

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.
- Domestic Violence 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.
- 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, Social Security Disability Income, and/or Medicaid and Medicare benefits. These benefits provide critical financial and healthcare resources that allow recipients to avoid homelessness.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budgeted	FY23 Estimate	FY24 Offer
Output	Number of participants receiving diversion services	982	1,170	1,060	1,170
Outcome	Percentage of exits to permanent housing*	76%	80%	80%	80%
Outcome	Number of people served with benefits acquisition assistance (BEST)	442	480	410	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	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2023	2023	2024	2024
Contractual Services	\$1,172,050	\$1,358,940	\$1,336,876	\$1,522,548
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,172,050	\$1,358,940	\$1,336,876	\$1,522,548
Program Total:	\$2,530,990		\$2,859,424	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$1,358,940	\$0	\$933,702
Beginning Working Capital	\$0	\$0	\$128,130	\$0
Total Revenue	\$0	\$1,358,940	\$128,130	\$933,702

Explanation of Revenues

County General Fund plus \$588,846 of the Video Lottery Fund allocated to Multnomah County to be used for the purpose of furthering economic development in accordance with ORS 461.512, \$128,130 of Tax Title proceeds to provide affordable housing for youth and families with children, in accordance with ORS 275.275, \$434,455 of the FY 2024 Supportive Housing Services (SHS) allocation to Multnomah County through the SHS Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Oregon Metro Regional Government, \$499,247 City of Portland General Fund allocation through Multnomah County's IGA with the City of Portland.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2023: 30500 Diversion Services