

Program #30210C - COVID-19 Emergency Response - Culturally Specific Outreach FY 2024 Adopted

Department: Joint Office of Homeless Services **Program Contact:** Joshua Bates
Program Offer Type: New **Program Offer Stage:** Adopted
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

Street outreach is a critical strategy to ensure people experiencing unsheltered homelessness are provided with access to basic survival supplies, receive critical information on available resources, and are assisted to navigate to those resources. Especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, having individuals who can bring services and supports to where people are is more essential than ever. This program offer funds significantly expanding culturally specific outreach services, recognizing that to be most effective, outreach services should be delivered by and for the diverse racial and ethnic communities that make up the unsheltered populations.

Program Description

Homelessness, including unsheltered homelessness, disproportionately impacts Communities of Color. Continued systemic, institutional, and individual racism pushes higher numbers of Black, Indigenous and other People of Color (BIPOC) into homelessness and makes escaping homelessness significantly more difficult. That is why Multnomah County, like communities across the country, sees rates of homelessness for BIPOC significantly higher than rates for Non-Hispanic whites. This is seen across homeless subpopulations, including among adults, families with children, domestic violence survivors, youth, people experiencing chronic homelessness, and among people who identify as LGBTQIA2S+. This overrepresentation is also seen among those living unsheltered, as well as those in shelter, or living in doubled up situations.

It is because of the additional barriers faced by BIPOC that the Joint Office of Homeless Services prioritizes the provision of culturally specific and culturally responsive services within all aspects of the homeless response system. Culturally specific services provided by and for Communities of Color that are overrepresented among people experiencing homelessness are particularly critical to eliminating racial disparities and meeting the commitment to support everyone in the community to end their homelessness.

This program offer continues expanded culturally specific services in one particularly critical area of the homeless services continuum of care, especially given the impacts of COVID-19 on the unsheltered population and Communities of Color. By investing in culturally specific outreach capacity focused on overrepresented Communities of Color, this program offer helps ensure that members of those communities who are living unsheltered in encampments, vehicles, or other places not meant for human habitation are connected to critical resources, including survival supplies, a range of shelter and support services, and, ultimately, permanent housing. Culturally specific outreach workers are able to build trust and tailor their work to the specific needs of their communities. They can help those they serve navigate mainstream service systems and institutions that too often are not culturally responsive and overcome the additional barriers created by ongoing racism.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budgeted	FY23 Estimate	FY24 Offer
Output	Culturally specific outreach workers	N/A	5	3	5
Outcome	People receiving assistance to access services	N/A	1,000	400	1,000

Performance Measures Descriptions

The FY 2023 Estimate reflects program ramp-up time; program launched in the third quarter.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2023	2023	2024	2024
Contractual Services	\$0	\$425,000	\$446,250	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$425,000	\$446,250	\$0
Program Total:	\$425,000		\$446,250	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$425,000	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$0	\$425,000	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Previously funded with ARP. in FY 2023, For FY 2024 County General Funds

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2023: 30903 ARP - COVID-19 Emergency Response - Culturally Specific Outreach