

Department: County Human Services

Program Contact: Mark Sanford

Program Offer Type: Existing

Program Offer Stage: Adopted

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Public Guardian and Conservator Program (PGC) protects and enhances the quality of life for the most vulnerable adults. PGC supports older adults, people with disabilities, and Veterans. The program serves adults who need daily intensive assistance and support. They also need specialized housing. They are often victims of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color) participants receive culturally specific services. The program plans to add a KSA position to further enhance culturally responsive service in the coming year. Guardians create person-centered care plans. PGC diverts those at risk or underserved to less restrictive and costly alternatives to public guardianship.

Program Description

ISSUE: The vital decisions PGC makes under court authority ends or reduces:

- Victimization, emergency department and hospital admissions,
- Houselessness, protective services, and law enforcement involvement,
- Involuntary civil commitments, and increased risk of premature death.

The demand for PGC services is growing due to an increasing aging population and the rising incidence of abuse and neglect. The growing number of people experiencing houselessness and the need for long term care adds to the need for this program. The COVID-19 pandemic (and other infectious respiratory diseases) has driven up referrals as hospital bed utilization remains at capacity.

PROGRAM GOAL: PGC provides legal protection and access to services and benefits. Client health and welfare improve by minimizing unnecessary emergency department or hospital visits. Public guardians arrange for their medical, behavioral health, and residential care. The program is essential to the department strategy to reduce financial fraud, abuse, and neglect while enhancing quality of life.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: Public guardians are court-appointed representatives. Clients have mental incapability, behavioral health needs, developmental disabilities, dementias or brain injury. They are dependent on others to meet their basic needs. The program seeks to balance the need for protection with the right to autonomy. PGC uses a culturally specific approach to address specific needs and help reduce health disparities. Guardians create person-centered care plans. The plan addresses risks, care arrangements, and stabilizes medical and psychiatric conditions. Public guardians are available 24/7 to make necessary decisions. Guardians provide quality services while carrying higher caseloads than the state PGC standard of 25. The program provides community consultation to identify alternatives to the restrictions of guardianship. PGC educates community partners. The program works with adult protective services, families, law enforcement, hospitals, multidisciplinary teams, and the court to intervene early to resolve fraud, abuse, and neglect of vulnerable adults.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budgeted	FY23 Estimate	FY24 Offer
Output	Number of County residents with a Public Guardian/Conservator	159	185	160	170
Outcome	Percent of new high-risk PGC participants with a reduction in hospital visits within a year ¹	100%	95%	95%	95%
Outcome	Percent of PGC participants with properly managed assets to ensure ongoing eligibility and fraud protection	100%	100%	100%	100%
Outcome	Percent of PGC contacts diverted to a less costly and less restrictive resource	32%	40%	35%	40%

Performance Measures Descriptions

¹Because this measure requires a 12-month service window, data for individuals newly appointed with a Guardian during FY 2022 is not yet available. The figure reported for FY 2022 Actual represents all high-risk PGC participants with a petition date during FY 2021.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

The decision to provide PGC service is established and guided by ORS Ch. 125 and County Ordinance, Ch. 23.501. If the County chooses to reduce the service, it remains obligated to current participants that are open with the court but can stop taking new participants if the Board of County Commissioners makes a finding that the service is no longer needed.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2023	2023	2024	2024
Personnel	\$1,462,223	\$0	\$1,520,082	\$0
Contractual Services	\$27,439	\$0	\$28,811	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$31,428	\$0	\$31,428	\$0
Internal Services	\$285,730	\$0	\$347,816	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,806,820	\$0	\$1,928,137	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,806,820		\$1,928,137	
Program FTE	11.00	0.00	11.00	0.00

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

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2023: 25026A ADVSD Public Guardian/Conservator