

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Mark Sanford
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

The Aging, Disability & Veterans Services Division (ADVSD) Public Guardian and Conservator program (PGC) supports older adults, people with disabilities, and Veterans under court authority and protects and enhances the quality of life for mentally incapacitated and impoverished adults who are victims of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation by improving their safety and well-being. PGC also diverts at-risk individuals to less restrictive and costly alternatives to publicly funded guardianship.

Program Summary

ISSUE: Without the Public Guardian/Conservator program making vital decisions under court authority, extremely vulnerable adults would experience continued victimization, frequent emergency room and hospital psychiatric admissions, homelessness, unnecessary protective services and law enforcement intervention, involuntary civil commitments, and increased risk of premature death. The demand for PGC services is increasing due to the aging population and the rising incidence of abuse among older adults and people with disabilities.

PROGRAM GOAL: The PGC goal is to provide legal protection and access to services and benefits while promoting the health and well-being for those served by minimizing unnecessary emergency department or hospital visits and arranging medical care. The PGC program is an essential part of the County response system to reduce financial fraud, abuse, and neglect when legal authority is required. PGC supports the DCHS strategy to reduce abuse and neglect in order to improve independence, health, and safety.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: Public guardians serve as the court-appointed representative for adults with mental incapability who are characterized by an IQ below 70, severe and persistent mental illness, Alzheimer's, and other dementias or brain injury. PGC participants are also functionally incapacitated, requiring intensive supports and specialized housing arrangements to balance the need for protection with the right to autonomy. Person-centered care plans address immediate risks, ensure adequate care arrangements, and stabilize medical and psychiatric conditions by achieving personal goals through social connections and community engagement. Public guardians are available 24/7 to make medical, psychiatric, financial, and life decisions for program participants. The average caseload is between 35-40 participants monthly.

Public guardians also provide community consultation for individuals who may not meet the legal or program criteria for needing a guardian yet still need assistance. They provide information and services, and identify less restrictive alternatives to address problems. The program provides training and outreach to community partners and culturally specific providers. Program staff work with Adult Protective Services, families, community partners, law enforcement, area hospitals, and the court to intervene early to resolve fraud, abuse, and neglect of vulnerable adults. This includes participation on Multi-Disciplinary Teams and critical case review committees to ensure that alternatives are considered to focus public funds on at-risk individuals without other resources.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY16 Actual	FY17 Purchased	FY17 Estimate	FY18 Offer
Output	# County residents with a Public Guardian/Conservator ¹	178	178	175	185
Outcome	% of new high-risk PGC participants with a reduction in hospital/emergency department visits within a year	90%	90%	90%	90%
Outcome	% of PGC participants with properly managed assets to ensure ongoing eligibility and fraud protection	100%	100%	100%	100%
Outcome	% of PGC contacts diverted to a less costly and less restrictive resource	36%	36%	36%	36%

Performance Measures Descriptions

New Measures – See Significant Program Changes section for explanation and previous measures.

¹The PGC program ensures a maximum caseload of about 185 County residents due to current program funding constraints. The growth in PGC participants is due to an additional PGC staff position. Total number of PGC participants may be higher due to those who have their guardianship/conservatorship terminated during the year, primarily due to death.

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

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2017	2017	2018	2018
Personnel	\$1,193,954	\$0	\$1,224,412	\$0
Contractual Services	\$28,389	\$0	\$81,725	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$36,404	\$0	\$34,222	\$0
Internal Services	\$178,202	\$0	\$217,120	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,436,949	\$0	\$1,557,479	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,436,949		\$1,557,479	
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 2017: 25026A ADVSD Public Guardian/Conservator

In 2016, ADVSD implemented a division-wide performance management system to measure participant outcomes and improve program administration. As a result, all ADVSD Program Offers were redesigned for FY18 to reflect the new measures. The FY17 Purchased amounts are estimates and differ from measures shown in the FY17 Adopted Budget.