

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

Executive Summary

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

Program Summary

ISSUE: The Public Guardian/Conservator Program makes vital decisions under court authority for extremely vulnerable adults who would otherwise experience continued victimization, frequent emergency department 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 and neglect 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 welfare of participants by minimizing unnecessary emergency department or hospital visits and arranging for needed medical, mental health, and residential 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.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: Public guardians serve as the court-appointed representative for adults with mental incapability characterized by an IQ below 70, severe and persistent mental illness, Alzheimer's, and other dementias or brain injury. PGC participants are 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 monthly caseload for a public guardian is 35-39 participants. Caseloads have reduced due to increased County funding, which allowed the program to better comply with national practice standards. Public guardians provide community consultation for individuals who may not meet legal or program criteria for needing a guardian but still need assistance. PGC provides information and services and identifies less restrictive alternatives to address problems. PGC provides training and outreach to community partners and culturally specific providers. Program staff work with Adult Protective Services, providers, 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	FY17 Actual	FY18 Purchased	FY18 Estimate	FY19 Offer
Output	# County residents with a Public Guardian/Conservator ¹	188	185	185	185
Outcome	% of new high-risk PGC participants with a reduction in hospital/emergency department visits within a year ²	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	31%	36%	30%	31%

Performance Measures Descriptions

¹The PGC program ensures a maximum caseload of about 185 County residents due to current program funding constraints. The annual number of PGC participants may be higher due to attrition. ²Because this measure requires a 12-month service window and information for FY 2017 is not available for newly appointed individuals. FY17 Actual represents all high-risk PGC participants with a petition date during FY 2016.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

The decision to provide PGC service is established and guided by Oregon Revised Statute 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	2018	2018	2019	2019
Personnel	\$1,224,412	\$0	\$1,271,978	\$0
Contractual Services	\$81,725	\$0	\$76,192	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$34,222	\$0	\$33,236	\$0
Internal Services	\$217,120	\$0	\$260,442	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,557,479	\$0	\$1,641,848	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,557,479		\$1,641,848	
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 2018: 25026 ADVSD Public Guardian/Conservator