

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

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. PGC 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 and Conservator Program making vital decisions under court authority, extremely vulnerable adults would 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 goal of PGC is to provide legal protection and access to services and benefits while promoting the health and welfare for those served 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's 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 with an IQ below 70, severe and persistent behavioral health needs, 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 community engagement. Public guardians are available 24/7 to make medical, psychiatric, financial, and life decisions for participants. The average caseload for PGC is 38 participants, significantly higher than the recommended national standard of 25 used by the Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator program. Public guardians also provide community consultation to those who may not meet the criteria for guardianship but seek less restrictive alternatives. Program staff train community partners and work with Adult Protective Services, families, community partners, law enforcement, hospitals, multi-disciplinary teams, and the court to intervene early to resolve fraud, abuse, and neglect of vulnerable adults.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budgeted	FY20 Estimate	FY21 Offer
Output	Number of County residents with a Public Guardian/Conservator	190	185	190	185
Outcome	Percent of new high-risk PGC participants with a reduction in hospital visits within a year ¹	100%	95%	100%	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%	30%	32%	30%

Performance Measures Descriptions

¹Because this measure requires a 12-month service window, data for individuals newly appointed with a Guardian during FY2019 is not yet available. The figure reported for FY2019 Actual represents all high-risk PGC participants with a petition date during FY2018.

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	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2020	2020	2021	2021
Personnel	\$1,341,573	\$0	\$1,369,809	\$0
Contractual Services	\$25,591	\$0	\$26,384	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$32,847	\$0	\$30,420	\$0
Internal Services	\$242,730	\$0	\$286,533	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,642,741	\$0	\$1,713,146	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,642,741		\$1,713,146	
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 2020: 25026A-20 ADVSD Public Guardian/Conservator