

Division: Aging, Disability & Veterans Services

Program Characteristics:

Program Description

When a court finds that an individual is profoundly mentally incapacitated and unable to care for themselves, a judge may appoint a public guardian to help them make informed decisions. These individuals are at severe risk of abuse and harm, and often need intensive support and specialized housing arrangements. The Public Guardian and Conservator (PGC) program ensures quality of life for highly vulnerable adults with mental incapability, behavioral health needs, developmental disabilities, dementia, or brain injury. PGC seeks to balance the need for safety and protection with the right to autonomy and advocacy for the protected person's own goals, preferences, and quality of life. Both guardianship and conservatorship are considered interventions of last resort. PGC provides consultation to the public and to service providers to find less restrictive alternatives whenever possible.

Guardians help individuals make decisions about where to live, medical and psychiatric care, end-of-life planning, and financial management. Even with high caseloads, guardians offer 24/7 services for emergencies. They work alongside Adult Protective Services, law enforcement, families, hospitals, and others to support the protected person's needs. A conservatorship may be necessary to manage the finances of a protected person. Conservatorship is a more intense form of financial management and protection. Conservators manage income sources, bills, and large assets such as trusts and properties.

Equity Statement

The program ensures all individuals under guardianship can access culturally relevant placements and services honoring their preferences, needs, and values. PGC employs a knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA) staff to support this objective. All staff are nationally certified and follow standards aligned with equitable and inclusive service delivery. PGC engages in community outreach and relationship building to reach people of all identities and backgrounds.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	2026 General Fund	2026 Other Funds	2027 General Fund	2027 Other Funds
Personnel	\$1,700,692	\$0	\$1,807,740	\$0
Contractual Services	\$30,684	\$0	\$31,697	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$39,147	\$0	\$92,983	\$0
Internal Services	\$177,381	\$0	\$204,765	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,947,904	\$0	\$2,137,185	\$0
Total Expenses:	\$1,947,904		\$2,137,185	
Program FTE	11.00	0.00	11.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$53,836	\$0	\$0	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$53,836	\$0
Total Revenue	\$53,836	\$0	\$53,836	\$0

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY25 Actual	FY26 Estimate	FY27 Target
Number of county residents with a Public Guardian/Conservator	133	140	140
Number of contacts diverted to a less costly and less restrictive resource	298	350	350