

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Mark Sanford
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs: 25026B
Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

The Public Guardian/Conservator (PGC) program, under court authority, makes vital decisions for 169 mentally incapacitated, dependent and impoverished adults who are current or recent victims of physical abuse, neglect and financial exploitation. Legal authority enables intervention when no other approach resolves abuse and neglect. PGC consults with county programs, families and community partners on strategies and resources to support vulnerable adults with diminished abilities and diverts additional at-risk clients to less restrictive, less costly alternatives to publicly funded guardianship.

Program Summary

The Public Guardian/Conservator (PGC) program is an essential part of the county response system for abuse and neglect when legal authority is required to provide for the safety and well-being of incapable adults. Program staff work with adult protective services, law enforcement and area hospitals to intervene early to resolve fraud, abuse and neglect of extremely vulnerable adults. This includes participation on County Human Services Multi-Disciplinary Teams and critical case review committees to assure that alternatives are considered, focusing public funds on at-risk citizens without other resources.

The program serves as the court-appointed guardian and/or conservator for mentally incapable adults who are characterized by the following: IQ below 70, treatment-resistant mental illness, Alzheimer's or other dementia, brain injury, complex medical and behavioral issues, no access to medical care, inadequate care and housing, high utilization of social/medical services, and financial exploitation. Program clients are also functionally incapacitated, requiring intensive supports and specialized housing arrangements to balance the need for protection with the right to autonomy. Public Guardians are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to make medical, psychiatric, financial and life decisions for program clients.

Guardianship and conservatorship ensure a maximum of about 169 county residents (based on current program funding constraints) access to safe and appropriate housing, medical care, psychiatric treatment, long term care, income and benefits. Without this option, clients experience continuing 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. Because of funding constraints, if PGC is unable to serve directly, the program provides consultative services to divert additional at-risk clients into less restrictive, less costly alternatives, or family and private guardianships/conservatorships.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY13 Actual	FY14 Purchased	FY14 Estimate	FY15 Offer
Output	Number of intakes per year ¹	-	-	20	20
Outcome	Urgent client safety needs addressed within five days after court appointment ²	100%	100%	100%	100%
Output	Referrals appropriately diverted to less costly resources ³	136	165	150	155

Performance Measures Descriptions

¹This is a new measure.

²Urgent client safety issues are addressed immediately upon court appointment. Ongoing stabilization requires subsequent intense management over months or years.

³Successful diversions reduce costs across county services, e.g. jails, emergency services, 911, case management, etc.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

The decision to provide the service is in County Ordinance, Ch. 23.501. Under ORS Ch. 125, if the county chooses to reduce the service, it remains obligated to current clients, but can halt further intake if the Board of County Commissioners makes a finding that the program is no longer needed.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2014	2014	2015	2015
Personnel	\$1,018,713	\$0	\$1,017,519	\$0
Contractual Services	\$16,222	\$0	\$16,222	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$30,261	\$0	\$31,565	\$0
Internal Services	\$147,212	\$0	\$155,293	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,212,408	\$0	\$1,220,599	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,212,408		\$1,220,599	
Program FTE	10.00	0.00	10.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000	\$0
Total Revenue	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

\$40,000 - Public Guardian Fees
\$1,180,595 - County General Fund

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: 25026A ADS Public Guardian/Conservator

FTE changes include reduction in 1.0 FTE Case Manager 1 and increase in 1.0 FTE Case Manager 2 as a result of a position reclassification.