

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Mark Sanford
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed
Related Programs: 25026B, 25026C
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 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 community engagement. Public guardians are available 24/7 to make medical, psychiatric, financial, and life decisions for participants. The average caseload is between 35-39 participants monthly, consistent with national standards. 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 to find less restrictive alternatives. They provide information and services and identify less restrictive alternatives to address problems. 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. PGC participates on multi-disciplinary teams and provides case consultation to identify alternatives to public guardianship.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY18 Actual	FY19 Purchased	FY19 Estimate	FY20 Offer
Output	# County residents with a Public Guardian/Conservator	183	185	183	185
Outcome	% of new high-risk PGC participants with a reduction in hospital/emergency department visits within a year ¹	100%	90%	100%	95%
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	35%	31%	30% ²	30%

Performance Measures Descriptions

¹Because this measure requires a 12 month service window, data for individuals newly appointed with a Guardian during FY18 is not yet available. The figure reported for FY18 Actual represents all high-risk PGC participants with a petition date during FY17.

²Overall contacts to PGC had decreased which could be due to increased community education therefore diverting people before they contacted PGC.

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	2019	2019	2020	2020
Personnel	\$1,271,978	\$0	\$1,341,573	\$0
Contractual Services	\$76,192	\$0	\$25,591	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$33,236	\$0	\$32,847	\$0
Internal Services	\$260,442	\$0	\$242,730	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,641,848	\$0	\$1,642,741	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,641,848		\$1,642,741	
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 2019: 25026-19 ADVSD Public Guardian/Conservator