

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

Executive Summary

The Public Guardian and Conservator Program (PGC) protects and enhances the quality of life for the most vulnerable adults. PGC supports older adults, people with disabilities, and Veterans. The program serves adults who need daily intensive assistance and support. They also need specialized housing. They are often victims of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color) communities receive culturally specific services. PGC diverts those at risk or underserved to less restrictive and costly alternatives to a public guardianship.

Program Summary

ISSUE: The vital decisions PGC makes under court authority ends or reduces:

- Victimization, emergency department and hospital admissions,
- Houselessness, protective services and law enforcement involvement,
- Involuntary civil commitments, and increased risk of premature death.

The demand for PGC services is increasing due an increasing aging population and the rising incidence of abuse and neglect. The increasing number experiencing houselessness adds to the need for this program. The COVID-19 pandemic has driven up referrals as hospital bed use remains at capacity.

PROGRAM GOAL: PGC provides legal protection and access to services and benefits. Client health and welfare improve by minimizing unnecessary emergency department or hospital visits. Public guardians arrange for their medical, behavioral health, and residential care. The program is essential to the department strategy to reduce financial fraud, abuse, and neglect.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: Public guardians are court-appointed representatives. Clients have mental incapability, behavioral health needs, Alzheimer's, dementias or brain injury. They need daily intensive assistance and support. They also need specialized housing. The program seeks to balance the need for protection with the right to autonomy. Culturally specific services address specific needs and help reduce health disparities. Guardians create person-centered care plans. The plan addresses risks, care arrangements, and stabilizes medical and psychiatric conditions. Public guardians are available 24/7 to make necessary decisions. Guardians provide quality services while carrying higher caseloads than the state PGC standard of 25. The program provides community consultation to identify alternatives to the restrictions of guardianship. PGC educates community partners and works with adult protective services, families, 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 | FY21 Actual | FY22 Budgeted | FY22 Estimate | FY23 Offer |
|--------------|---|-------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Output | Number of County residents with a Public Guardian/Conservator | 178 | 185 | 170 | 185 |
| Outcome | Percent of new high-risk PGC participants with a reduction in hospital visits within a year ¹ | 100% | 95% | 95% | 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 | 58% | 40% | 40% | 40% |

Performance Measures Descriptions

¹Because this measure requires a 12-month service window, data for individuals newly appointed with a Guardian during FY 2021 is not yet available. The figure reported for FY 2021 Actual represents all high-risk PGC participants with a petition date during FY 2020.

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 | Requested General Fund | Requested Other Funds |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Program Expenses | 2022 | 2022 | 2023 | 2023 |
| Personnel | \$1,407,083 | \$0 | \$1,459,082 | \$0 |
| Contractual Services | \$26,384 | \$0 | \$27,439 | \$0 |
| Materials & Supplies | \$30,420 | \$0 | \$31,428 | \$0 |
| Internal Services | \$290,487 | \$0 | \$285,730 | \$0 |
| Total GF/non-GF | \$1,754,374 | \$0 | \$1,803,679 | \$0 |
| Program Total: | \$1,754,374 | | \$1,803,679 | |
| 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 2022: 25026 ADVSD Public Guardian/Conservator