

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Mark Sanford
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted
Related Programs: 25026A
Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

This program offer is for increased funding to the Public Guardian/Conservator program (PGC) which, under court authority, makes vital decisions for mentally incapacitated, dependent and impoverished adults who are current or recent victims of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation. This offer will add one Deputy Guardian position to significantly expand the capacity to serve up to 40 more individuals who are at risk for harm, providing immediate protection and access to care while saving money that will otherwise be needlessly spent on emergency services and social service interventions.

Program Summary

Aging, Disability and Veterans Services Division proposes to increase funding for PGC to expand the capacity to serve more high-risk, low-income adults with diminished capacity, and provide enhanced outreach and education on legal surrogacy to communities of color and other underserved populations. These individuals are at risk for harm because of their inability to meet basic needs, lack of access to healthcare, including medical treatment for chronic conditions and psychiatric stabilization, and often fall victim to the interests of others. They are frequently homeless or, if temporarily placed, often remain in more restrictive and costly settings. In the past year, 56% of new intakes were over utilizing emergency departments and/or requiring extended and preventable hospitalizations - including state hospital care - and 76% had significant medical needs.

The demand for services is increasing due to the aging of the population, including people with disabilities, the aging of caregivers, the rising incidence of abuse among the elderly and disabled population, and the lack of resources for legal surrogacy. In addition, the contractor providing guardianship monitoring services in Multnomah County has begun to identify incapacitated adults under guardianship who are being abused or neglected by their guardian and require public guardian resources for ongoing protection. Despite this growing need, PGC capacity to serve Multnomah County citizens is constrained by current staffing levels and caseload size. Experienced Deputy Guardians manage caseloads of 40 clients, which is twice the national standard of 20 clients/guardian. The program can typically take on approximately 15 new clients per year. In FY14 PGC identified an additional 20 potential clients it was unable to serve due to capacity.

New intakes are extremely time intensive and can take months to stabilize. A new Deputy Guardian initially will not be able to carry a full caseload of 40 clients; in addition the program will maintain standards for serving the most high risk clients, and therefore anticipates adding an additional 10 new intakes per year. This will allow for a gradual caseload development for the new Limited Duration Deputy Guardian. It is anticipated it could take up to four years to reach overall caseload size of 40 clients. Without additional resources, the program will likely need to suspend intake and resort to a waiting list for future, urgent referrals.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY14 Actual	FY15 Purchased	FY15 Estimate	FY16 Offer
Output	Number of intakes per year ¹	-	-	-	10
Outcome	Urgent client safety needs addressed within five days after court appointment ²	-	-	-	100%

Performance Measures Descriptions

¹Current number of new intakes for PGC is limited by attrition due to mortality, approximately 15/year. An additional 10 intakes will be possible with purchase of this program offer. Program will maintain standards for service to the most high risk clients allowing for gradual caseload development for a new Deputy Guardian. It is anticipated it could take up to four years to reach overall caseload size of 40 clients. ²Urgent client safety issues are addressed immediately upon court appointment.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2015	2015	2016	2016
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$91,044	\$0
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$4,514	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$95,558	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$95,558	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: