

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

Executive Summary

Multnomah County Public Guardian and Conservator program (PGC) proposes to provide funding to support a protected persons special advocate program in Multnomah County. This program will reduce the potential for abuse, neglect, and exploitation of protected, legally incapacitated adults.

Program Summary

There is a movement in Oregon to institute a statewide protected persons special advocate program. The mission of this type of program is to assist county Circuit Courts in protecting vulnerable citizens by using trained and supervised volunteers to monitor guardianship proceedings. There are currently 1,500 adults under court-appointed guardianships in Multnomah County, with approximately 150 new guardianships filed each year. Legal guardians are appointed by the Circuit Court and responsible for making decisions on behalf of an incapacitated person about personal and medical care, and even where the person lives. The Circuit Court does not have adequate resources to provide the level of detailed review each individual under guardianship deserves.

Experience and a series of stakeholder interviews reveal that most legal guardians are caring and responsible individuals. Unfortunately, that is not always the case as some guardians (estimated to be 5-10% in Multnomah County) neglect, abuse and exploit the very people they promise to protect. The Circuit Court reports dozens of calls each year from family members and protection agencies with complaints of guardian mistreatment of a protected person. Also, 90% of guardians require a reminder to file timely annual reports and 10% of guardianship cases do not have updated information as to the guardian or protected person's whereabouts.

PGC recognizes a need for enhanced monitoring of guardianships and support of guardians. PGC consults with professional fiduciaries and family members to identify individuals who are willing and able to serve as guardians, diverting dozens of individuals with diminished capacity each year who might otherwise require publicly funded services. In addition to maintaining the rights and protection of our most vulnerable citizens, the PGC and other DCHS programs have a vested interest in supporting family/lay guardians and intervening early to avoid expensive and unnecessary case management and protective service interventions. The PGC is willing to invest in further development of a protected persons special advocate program to improve the quality of guardianship practice throughout the county. The PGC will ensure the development of an accountability performance management plan.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY13 Actual	FY14 Purchased	FY14 Estimate	FY15 Offer
Output	Number of interventions and monitoring visits	-	-	-	100
Outcome	Guardian satisfaction with program interventions ¹	-	-	-	85%

Performance Measures Descriptions

¹Percent of guardians who agree or strongly agree with quality of intervention services, and report improved skills and knowledge of community resources.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2014	2014	2015	2015
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$50,000	
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: