

Program #25046 - YFS - Domestic Violence Legal Services 2/21/2018

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Rose-Ellen Bak
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

Domestic Violence Crisis Services improve the quality of life for victims who are currently fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence. Individuals attempting to flee domestic violence need access to the type and level of service they desire when the time is right for them. This offer funds legal advocacy and civil legal services for survivors of domestic violence through contracted services at local nonprofit agencies. It also supports advocacy in the restraining order services room at the Multnomah County Courthouse.

Program Summary

ISSUE: The cost of legal representation can be prohibitive for survivors who have low or no income and have been financially exploited by their abusers. There are very few resources for legal assistance available for survivors with low incomes. As a result, survivors of domestic violence often are forced to appear in court without representation or legal advocacy. Domestic violence survivors and provider agencies report that civil legal services are one of the highest unmet needs for domestic violence survivors.

PROGRAM GOAL: The goal of the program is to reduce domestic violence by providing civil legal advocacy and civil legal services to help survivors to safely end abusive relationships and resolve issues that cannot be addressed by human service or criminal justice interventions.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: Program activities focus on the provision of legal assistance. Civil legal assistance is related to the reduction in reported domestic violence crimes and improves the likelihood that survivors will be able to obtain protective orders from courts, which is a significant factor in reducing rates of violence. These specialized legal services for domestic and sexual violence survivors ensure better outcomes in legal proceedings. These include assistance with restraining order hearings, custody and parenting time determinations, housing retention, immigration matters, and related victims' rights and other civil legal matters.

This offer funds legal advocacy and civil legal services for survivors through local nonprofit agencies including Legal Aid Services of Oregon. This funding also supports advocacy in the restraining order services room at the Multnomah County Courthouse and the Court Care program which provides culturally specific trauma-informed childcare in the Courthouse for children whose parents are engaged in legal proceedings.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY17 Actual	FY18 Purchased	FY18 Estimate	FY19 Offer
Output	Number of domestic violence survivors assisted with courthouse-based restraining order advocacy.	1788 ¹	800	800	800
Outcome	% of retained cases with a court action filed or contested by an attorney.	100%	75%	75%	75%

Performance Measures Descriptions

¹ Numbers served were higher in the previous year due to additional OTO funds that were available.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2018	2018	2019	2019
Contractual Services	\$203,452	\$30,637	\$207,214	\$31,000
Total GF/non-GF	\$203,452	\$30,637	\$207,214	\$31,000
Program Total:	\$234,089		\$238,214	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$30,637	\$0	\$31,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$30,637	\$0	\$31,000

Explanation of Revenues

\$31,000 - Oregon Judicial Department Court Care Center

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2018: 25046A YFS - Domestic Violence Legal Services