

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

**Executive Summary**

Domestic Violence Legal Services funds legal advocacy and civil legal services for survivors of domestic violence and supports advocacy in the restraining order services room at the Multnomah County Courthouse. These services are contracted to non-profits. YFS staff support program development through convening providers, providing technical assistance and contract monitoring.

**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	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budgeted	FY20 Estimate	FY21 Offer
Output	Number of domestic violence survivors assisted with courthouse-based restraining order advocacy.	1,934	800	2,000	2,000
Outcome	Percent of retained cases with a court action filed or contested by an attorney.	95%	75%	75%	75%

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

Numbers engaged increased to better reflect service levels in the courthouse restraining order advocacy program.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2020	2020	2021	2021
Contractual Services	\$210,503	\$35,000	\$189,608	\$35,000
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$210,503</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$189,608</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$245,503</b>		<b>\$224,608</b>	
<b>Program FTE</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>

Explanation of Revenues

\$35,000 - Oregon Judicial Department Court Care Center

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2020: 25046-20 YFS - Domestic Violence Legal Services