

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

Executive Summary

Domestic violence is a multifaceted issue, often requiring legal intervention to support client safety and offender accountability. Because the legal system can be complex and often traumatic for survivors, especially for survivors from marginalized communities, high quality legal services are made available to assist survivors who choose a legal intervention.

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. Additionally, the complexity of the legal system can pose a barrier for many survivors without representation. 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: This program is designed to support survivor safety and help ensure offender accountability by providing civil legal advocacy and civil legal services to help survivors to safely 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. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, courthouse-based services moved to remote operation for most of FY 2021. In-person courthouse services will resume when it is safe to do so.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Number of domestic violence survivors assisted with courthouse-based restraining order advocacy ¹	1,823	800	1,000	1,000
Outcome	Percentage of retained cases with a court action filed or contested by an attorney	75%	80%	80%	80%

Performance Measures Descriptions

¹Requests for courthouse-based services continue to increase. Program will continue to be monitored and totals adjusted to reflect service levels as in-person services resume.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Contractual Services	\$189,608	\$35,000	\$192,546	\$35,000
Total GF/non-GF	\$189,608	\$35,000	\$192,546	\$35,000
Program Total:	\$224,608		\$227,546	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000

Explanation of Revenues

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

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 25046 YFS - Domestic Violence Legal Services