

**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 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 FY21. 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 <sup>1</sup>	1823	800	1000	1000
Outcome	Percentage of retained cases with a court action filed or contested by an attorney	75%	80%	80%	80%

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

<sup>1</sup>Requests 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.

**Legal / Contractual Obligation****Revenue/Expense Detail**

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

<b>Program Revenues</b>				
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 2021: 25046 YFS - Domestic Violence Legal Services