

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

**Executive Summary**

The Benefits Recovery Program utilizes a proven program model to assist over 200 chronically homeless individuals with mental illness, addictions, and disabilities in accessing federal benefits, such as Social Security Disability Insurance (SSI/SSDI), and services to which they are entitled but have been unable to receive because their disabilities prevent them from successful navigation of the application or appeals system.

**Program Summary**

Benefits Recovery assists about 245 individuals annually who are served by the Multnomah Treatment Fund, the Homeless Families System of Care, or other County-funded programs. Seventy-five percent of those served are expected to receive benefits, a significantly higher percentage than would have received benefits without the program's assistance. Based on Census data estimates and data from the Social Security Administration, locally only 11% of those eligible receive benefits.

Services include eligibility screening, application assistance, appeals process advocacy, case management, and medical and other documentation to individuals evaluated to be potentially eligible for SSI/SSDI. The program targets those who would potentially not be on the County's caseload if they had access to the benefits for which they are eligible, or those currently on the County's or County contractor's caseload whose cost of care is not reimbursed. Local estimates using Census data identify 39% of the chronic homeless population as eligible for SSI/SSDI as a result of mental illness, and 46% eligible as a result of their physical health.

Without benefits, individuals are either without services and utilizing expensive, locally-funded safety net services (including jail or hospital/medical care), or have their treatment paid for with scarce local community (non-federal) funds.

At the start of services, clients were receiving an average of \$107 per month, and at exit they were receiving \$788 per month. Forty-one percent of clients had no primary health care option at the start of services and 99% are now covered through Medicaid. Program clients also secure benefits at a much younger age than those who apply on their own, saving public systems tens of thousands of dollars over the course of a person's life.

This program offer includes City of Portland funds for the BEST program that are jointly contracted with Benefits Recovery to provide similar services.

**Performance Measures**

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY15 Actual	FY16 Purchased	FY16 Estimate	FY17 Offer
Output	Number of individuals served	230*	175	230*	175
Outcome	Percentage of individuals served who receive benefits	78%	75%	75%	75%

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

\* The program has been able to serve higher number of people with budgeted funds than anticipated, however as program outreach is expanded to other populations it is likely numbers will go down towards budgeted amounts

**Legal / Contractual Obligation**

N/A

**Revenue/Expense Detail**

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2016	2016	2017	2017
Contractual Services	\$436,470	\$223,000	\$443,453	\$223,000
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$436,470</b>	<b>\$223,000</b>	<b>\$443,453</b>	<b>\$223,000</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$659,470</b>		<b>\$666,453</b>	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$223,000	\$0	\$223,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$223,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$223,000</b>

**Explanation of Revenues**

\$223,000 - City of Portland general fund based on current award

**Significant Program Changes**

Last Year this program was: FY 2016: 25115-16 Homeless Benefit Recovery Project (HBR)