

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs: 25139
Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

The Family Unification Project (FUP) is a culturally specific program that supports child welfare system involved families to secure safe and stable housing, and be reunified with their child(ren). It is focused on addressing systemic racism in the Child Welfare system which resulted in differential treatment and over representation of children of color in the System. The program is a partnership with County Human Services, Youth & Family Services (DCHS/YFS), Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), Home Forward (HF), Metropolitan Public Defenders and community agencies. These services are contracted to non-profits. YFS staff support FUP through program development by convening providers, providing technical assistance and contract monitoring.

Program Summary

ISSUE: The legacy of systemic racism in Child Welfare profoundly affects families. Black, Indigenous, Native and families of color are overrepresented in the DHS child welfare system. Families require culturally specific approaches of engagement and support in order to keep/regain custody of their child(ren), including housing, education, employment, child care and parenting support.

PROGRAM GOAL: The program goal is to provided culturally specific services to support and empower families so they can remain intact and/or reunite, remain stably housed, and exit from DHS child welfare system involvement.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: Each funded partner provides an essential element to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated range of services for families. Home Forward makes available HUD-funded Housing Choice vouchers for families with DHS child welfare involvement. DCHS/YFS provides funds for case management through culturally specific and responsive community agencies, and DHS supports families to reunite with their children. Metropolitan Public Defenders provides legal supports that remove legal barriers, such as record expungement and mitigation of fines. Case management supports use the Assertive Engagement model. This approach recognizes the individual as the expert in their own life, and instills hope. It strives to nurture the innate capacity of families to choose their own path by using proven methods of engagement to improve their abilities to envision a brighter future for their families. Agency staff draw from an array of flexible service options made available to families so that they choose what suits their hopes and goals. Flexible services may include payments for household and life-needs, supporting involvement in groups and activities and related services. During the COVID-19 pandemic, culturally specific providers have played a critical role in helping families navigate complex systems. The array of services FUP provides ensures that all families, especially those from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities can reunite and remain stably housed.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Number of families who engage in services ¹	60	191	135	135
Outcome	Percent of families that engage in case management at least one time per month ²	97%	80%	80%	80%

Performance Measures Descriptions

¹Output for FY2020 is lower because it did not account for new housing vouchers received that year; current estimates reflect accurate output targets.

²New outcome for FY2020 to capture level of engagement by families.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Contractual Services	\$727,872	\$0	\$641,702	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$727,872	\$0	\$641,702	\$0
Program Total:	\$727,872		\$641,702	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 25130A YFS Family Unification Program

As part of the 2% County Constraint exercise, the program was reduced by \$100,000 in flexible client assistance funds after applying the 1.90% COLA.