

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs: 25131B
Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

Multnomah County is in a severe housing crisis and many low-income residents lack housing and/or economic stability. Having legal issues and/or not having financial resources to address them are roadblocks to overall stability and prevent access to housing, employment, education and community involvement. Black, Indigenous, Native and communities of color and people with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by debt and legal barriers because of systemic racism and discrimination. Legal services and supports remove legal issues that may be barriers to opportunity and stability.

Program Summary

ISSUE: Residents experiencing poverty, in particular people of color, experience discrimination and disproportionate contact with the criminal justice system. This systemic racism results in legal and financial barriers that prevent them from accessing housing, employment, education and other opportunities.

PROGRAM GOAL: Legal Services and Supports provide free legal services and advice to participants who need assistance with fines, fees and other legal issues. By reducing and/or eliminating the legal issues, it removes barriers to housing, employment, education, etc. and thus increases the potential for stability and opportunity

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: There are two primary legal services offered through this program: Legal Service Days and Community Legal Clinics.

1) Legal Service Days: District Attorneys, Judges, Public Defenders and Social Services agencies collaborate to host legal clinics dedicated to reducing or eliminating fees, fines and legal barriers. These legal clinics are located throughout the County, close to low-income residents and communities of color. This program has continued throughout the pandemic and while the "days" are held virtually, they have actually served a higher number of community members compared to pre-pandemic in-person events.

2) Community Legal Clinics: Contracted legal services staff Attorneys work collaboratively with culturally specific case managers and County program staff to establish trust and receive referrals to no cost barrier screening, representation and legal services. Participants are engaged in the Multnomah Stability Initiative (MSI), and the Family Reunification Program (FUP). Legal supports depend on the individual need and include expungement, eviction prevention, housing voucher hearings, reduction of fees and fines, drivers' license restoration, felony reduction, appeal of exclusions, gang designations and other legal barrier removal cases.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Number of participants engaged in services	814	700	700	700
Outcome	% of participants receiving legal advice or services resulting in barrier reduction	100%	90%	90%	90%
Output	Amount of fees and fines waived or reduced	\$2,842,009	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

Performance Measures Descriptions

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Contractual Services	\$277,821	\$0	\$254,750	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$277,821	\$0	\$254,750	\$0
Program Total:	\$277,821		\$254,750	
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: 25131 YFS - Legal Services Day