

Department: County Human Services

Program Contact: Lori Stegmann

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Proposed

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:
Program Description

ISSUE: Residents experiencing poverty, in particular Black, Indigenous and Communities of Color and people with disabilities, often experience discrimination and more frequent contact with the criminal justice system. This systemic racism often results in legal and financial barriers that prevent them from accessing housing, employment, education and other opportunities.

PROGRAM GOAL: Legal Service providers use all available legal tools to identify and remove barriers by providing 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, the program removes barriers to housing, employment, education, etc. and, thus, increases the potential for stability and opportunity.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: This program uses two strategies: 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 which help clients reduce or eliminate fees, fines and legal barriers.

2) Community Legal Clinics: To increase trust and engagement, contracted legal services staff attorneys work with culturally specific case managers and County program staff and receive referrals to no cost barrier screening, representation and legal services. Participants are engaged in the Multnomah Stability Initiative (MSI), and the Family Unification 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.

PROGRAM OUTPUTS:

- Provides legal advice and counsel to assist low-income residents and case managers to resolve legal barriers.
- Provides legal representation to assist low-income residents in resolving a wide range of legal issues - both in and outside of court.
- Provides legal clinics to low-income, Multnomah County residents and communities of color.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Number of participants engaged in services	1,041	1,175	1,175	1,175
Output	Percent of participants receiving legal advice or services resulting in barrier reduction	91%	90%	90%	90%
Output	Amount of fees and fines waived or reduced	\$2,354,280	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

Performance Measures Descriptions

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Contractual Services	\$491,246	\$0	\$503,036	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$491,246	\$0	\$503,036	\$0
Program Total:	\$491,246		\$503,036	
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 2025: 25131A YFS - Legal Services & Supports