

Department: County Human Services

Program Contact: Lori Stegmann

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Adopted

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:
Program Description

ISSUE: Economically disadvantaged people and people of color are 20 times more likely to be incarcerated, and even a single arrest can lead to the loss of housing, jobs, children, benefits, and education, creating immediate and intergenerational trauma. Incarceration causes irrevocable harm to about 70 million Americans, exacerbates inequity, and does not make our communities safer. Individuals charged with a crime in Multnomah County often have a high level of need for services. While the type will differ for each client, the most common stabilizing services include housing (temporary, short-term, and long-term), behavioral health, medical, employment, and family/child care. However, given the scarcity of these services, as well as the complexities of accessing them, most clients will not engage with them without assistance.

PROGRAM GOAL: Defense-based case managers are uniquely situated to provide support to pretrial clients. In addition to assurances of confidentiality, defense-based peer case managers can effectively engage clients through shared experience. Case managers with lived experience and/or prior system involvement can connect with clients in ways that system actors, and even defense counsel, cannot. They can offer clients advice based on their own struggles with substances, plug clients into existing recovery support networks, and overcome barriers of distrust and skepticism of the criminal legal system. Including a defense-based case manager in the process allows service coordination engagement at the outset of the criminal case.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: Peer case managers inquire about service needs and assists clients in accessing them. A strengths and needs evaluation is conducted quickly, assessing all of the relevant service needs for each client. Depending on the client's needs, the information collected is used for immediate referrals to services or is passed along to the defense attorney appointed for future referrals and/or release planning.

PROGRAM OUTPUTS:

- Provides peer navigators to economically disadvantaged people who have been charged with a crime, with a focus on BIPOC individuals.
- Provides needs assessment, advice, service coordination and referral to support clients in resolving basic needs and engaging with their legal counsel.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Number of clients connected to Peer Support Case Managers*	398	200	200	150
Output	Percent of clients served that identify as a member of the BIPOC community	63%	70%	70%	70%

Performance Measures Descriptions

*FY26 Target is lower due to reduction in funding for FY26.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
	2025	2025	2026	2026
Program Expenses				
Contractual Services	\$621,261	\$0	\$419,431	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$621,261	\$0	\$419,431	\$0
Program Total:	\$621,261		\$419,431	
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: 25131B YFS - Peer Navigators

Reallocated \$222,411 in General Fund from program YFS - Peer Navigators (25131B) to program YFS - Bienestar Social Services (25156).

This program was restored by Board Amendment #34 in FY 2026.