

Division: Youth & Family Services

Program Characteristics:

Program Description

Low-income people of color are 20 times more likely to go to jail or prison. One arrest can cause catastrophic problems resulting in losing a home, job, kids, or benefits, which creates long-term issues for that person and their family. People charged with a crime often need considerable help. But because this help is hard to find and difficult to get, most people do not have access to these services unless someone helps them.

Peer Navigators are defense-based case managers who support underserved offenders by connecting them to resources. These case managers have personal experience with the justice system. Because of this, they can connect with clients in a way that court staff and even defense lawyers cannot. They start helping clients at the beginning of a criminal case to make sure they get the services they need as the case moves forward. Program activities include:

- Providing peer navigators to economically disadvantaged people who have been charged with a crime.
- Providing needs assessments, advice, service coordination, and referrals to support clients in resolving basic needs and engaging with their legal counsel. Services include housing (temporary, short-term, and long-term), behavioral health, medical, employment, and family/child care.

This program supports the Youth and Family Services (YFS) Division Outcomes of Safety and Resilience and Housing and Economic Stability.

Equity Statement

This program addresses barriers experienced by Multnomah County low-income residents who are involved in the criminal justice system. It supports access to an array of services that improve legal outcomes, long-term stability, and success.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	2026 General Fund	2026 Other Funds	2027 General Fund	2027 Other Funds
Contractual Services	\$419,431	\$0	\$508,272	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$419,431	\$0	\$508,272	\$0
Total Expenses:	\$419,431		\$508,272	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY25 Actual	FY26 Estimate	FY27 Target
Number of clients referred to the Peer Support program	N/A	N/A	300
Number of clients connected to resources and needs met	220	200	235