

Division: Youth & Family Services

Program Characteristics:

Program Description

The number of eviction court cases filed has increased dramatically due to the current housing and affordability crisis and the expiration of pandemic renter protections. In Multnomah County, the number of court cases for eviction due to nonpayment of rent reached nearly 11,000 households in FY 2025. The number of impacted households far exceeds this, with research suggesting that for every one court case filed, five tenants will have self-evicted. The need for legal support is high, with only 6% of tenants having legal representation in eviction proceedings compared to 80% of landlords. Accessing resources and navigating the evolving legal landscape is also difficult. Renters benefit from fair and manageable stipulated agreements, services that result in negotiated reductions in the amounts owed, and the prevention of evictions. This program offer provides eviction legal consultation, negotiation, and defense services to tenants with eviction notices from landlords or court cases filed. Program activities include:

- Providing legal support to households with an eviction notice to prevent the case from being taken to court.
- Providing eviction legal defense in court when cases are filed.
- Negotiating reductions in the amount tenants owe (approximately \$150,000 per year).

This program supports the Youth and Family Services (YFS) Division Outcome of Housing and Economic Stability by providing eviction legal defense services to tenants, which enables them to maintain their housing and avoid homelessness.

Equity Statement

Low-income Multnomah County tenants face ongoing barriers to achieving fair court outcomes due to lack of resources for legal counsel. Providing services through the eviction legal defense services supports fair representation and prevents evictions, as well as helps reduce the amount tenants owe.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	2026 General Fund	2026 Other Funds	2027 General Fund	2027 Other Funds
Contractual Services	\$124,528	\$210,164	\$338,801	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$124,528	\$210,164	\$338,801	\$0
Total Expenses:	\$334,692		\$338,801	
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 renters who engage with legal representation to achieve dismissal of their case	363	300	300
Amount that tenant arrears and other charges are reduced	N/A	N/A	\$150,000