

Division: Youth & Family Services

Program Characteristics:

Program Description

Multnomah County is in a severe housing crisis. For low-income families, having legal issues and not having financial resources to address them are roadblocks to overall stability. Fines and fees, suspended driver's licenses, and criminal records can severely impact individuals trying to rebuild their lives after legal system involvement. These issues often lead to ongoing economic hardship and make it difficult to secure stable housing and employment. For many low-income households, and especially for vulnerable community members, legal services are both financially inaccessible and hard to find. Project Reset removes these barriers by providing legal services focused on removing court debt and clearing criminal records to help lift people out of poverty and work toward stability and well-being. Program activities include:

- Allowing any county resident with fees and fines the opportunity to enter a monthly lottery for legal services. Over 2,000 people are screened each year, and just over 700 are selected. For those 700, over 3,000 cases are filed in court to waive outstanding fines and fees.
- Screening of participants by an attorney for additional legal services.
- Legal services including reduction/removal of court fines and fees, clearing of criminal records, and other resources to provide stability, including the removal of obstacles to obtain a valid driver's license.

This offer supports the Youth and Family Services (YFS) Division Outcome of Housing and Economic Stability. Reducing or eliminating legal issues removes barriers to housing, employment, and education, increasing earning potential and housing stability.

Equity Statement

The Youth and Family Services Record and Fee Expungement Program, Project Reset, seeks to remove economic and non-economic barriers by providing legal services focused on removing court debt and clearing criminal records to help lift people out of poverty and work toward stability and well-being.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	2026 General Fund	2026 Other Funds	2027 General Fund	2027 Other Funds
Contractual Services	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$428,250
Total GF/non-GF	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$428,250
Total Expenses:	\$250,000		\$428,250	
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 participants served through Project Reset	729	700	700
Total amount of fees and fines reduced	\$1.9 million	\$1.5 million	\$1.5 million