

**Department:** County Human Services

**Program Contact:** Lori Stegmann

**Program Offer Type:** Operating

**Program Offer Stage:** Adopted

**Related Programs:**
**Program Characteristics:** Backfill Other Funds

**Program Description**

**ISSUE:** The number of eviction court cases filed has increased dramatically since the end of the pandemic protections with rates currently exceeding those seen prior to the pandemic. In Multnomah County, the number of court cases for eviction due to nonpayment of rent reached over 1,000 cases per month by Winter 2025, which suggests that over 11,000 households will be taken to court for eviction 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. Thousands of Multnomah County residents are unable to pay their rent due to the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Black, Indigenous, and People of Color continue to be disproportionately at risk of eviction, impacted by inflation and rising costs of rent, and facing the greatest barriers to employment and housing stability. The vast majority of eviction cases are for nonpayment of rent.

**PROGRAM GOALS:** The main goal of the program is to reduce the number of tenants who are evicted through providing free legal support in court proceedings. It also reduces the disparity in the number of tenants who have legal representation in eviction cases in comparison with landlords.

**PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:** Provide free legal support and representation to low-income tenants facing eviction in court. Legal support will be provided directly in the court setting to ensure tenants understand their rights and can effectively advocate for themselves in court. Legal support and representation will assist tenants to navigate the complex and intimidating legal processes involved in eviction cases before appearing in court. The provider will conduct direct outreach at the Multnomah County Courthouse to tenants who are attending proceedings for eviction. They will also provide intake and screening for legal representation, focused on households at or below 65% of average median income. They will provide limited or full legal representation that may include: negotiations; rental assistance referrals; and help filing stipulated agreements. The provider will also refer program participants who need financial assistance to appropriate community emergency rent assistance partners.

**PROGRAM OUTPUTS:**

- Provides attorneys available in the courtroom conducting direct outreach to tenants without representation.
- Provides same-day eviction legal support and representation in court for tenants with eviction cases.

**Performance Measures**

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Number of households facing eviction court hearings who receive legal support or representation*	N/A	1,300	1,300	550
Output	Percent of households receiving legal support beyond the first court appearance	N/A	N/A	N/A	10%

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

\*Reduction in FY26 target is due to reduced funding level in FY26.

## Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
	2025	2025	2026	2026
Program Expenses				
Contractual Services	\$330,000	\$250,000	\$247,324	\$0
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$330,000</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$247,324</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$580,000</b>		<b>\$247,324</b>	
<b>Program FTE</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

<b>Program Revenues</b>				
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## Explanation of Revenues

## Significant Program Changes

**Last Year this program was:** FY 2025: 25131E YFS - Eviction Prevention: In Courtroom Support

This program was restored by Board Amendment #34 in FY 2026 with ongoing General Fund. In FY 2025, this program was funded with one-time-only General Fund and Supportive Housing Services funding.