

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted
Related Programs: 25133A
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Multnomah County is experiencing an unprecedented housing crisis and thousands of low income families are living with severe rent burdens. Over the course of any given year, a percentage of these households will face a crisis that puts them at imminent risk of homelessness. Currently, short term rent assistance coupled with services and flexible client assistance funds is the main intervention to prevent homelessness. This offer creates a local long term rent assistance pilot for families at risk of homelessness.

Program Summary

ISSUE: Tens of thousands of very low-income families in Multnomah County are living with severe rent burdens, spending more than 50% of their already limited incomes on rent. Over the course of any given year, a percentage of these households will face a crisis that puts them at imminent risk of homelessness. For some of these families, this is a one-time occurrence, and for others it is part of a recurring cycle of extreme housing instability, followed by homelessness, followed by extreme housing instability and then homelessness again.

PROGRAM GOAL: The goal is to determine how well long term rent assistance improves outcomes for families at risk of homelessness to an extent that they may transition off of a rent subsidy and/or helps families transition to a permanent federal subsidy.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: The program will serve a small number of severely rent burdened families at risk of homelessness through our existing Multnomah Stability Initiative (MSI) anti-poverty program, with a local long term voucher instead of short term rent assistance. Long term rent assistance will be coupled with culturally specific or culturally responsive case management using principles of Assertive Engagement. The program will be evaluated to determine which families are most likely to benefit from long term intervention and whether a long term voucher results in improved outcomes in a variety of domains including housing stability and positive child development. Rent assistance will be processed and distributed through existing County partnerships with Home Forward and MSI providers. Partnership with the Joint Office of Homeless Services will also create opportunities for replication.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY18 Actual	FY19 Purchased	FY19 Estimate	FY20 Offer
Output	# MSI participants receiving long term rent assistance	N/A	N/A	N/A	8
Outcome	% of families experiencing improvements in MSI outcomes	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2019	2019	2020	2020
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$150,000	
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:

Reallocates \$150,000 ongoing CGF from Short Term Rental Assistance; \$75,000 from JOHS Offer 10053C - Housing Placement & Retention - Homeless Families and \$75,000 from DCHS Program Offer 25133A - YFS Housing Stabilization for Vulnerable Populations (HSVP).