

**Program #25159A - School Attendance Supports** 4/15/2016

**Department:** County Human Services      **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski  
**Program Offer Type:** Existing Operating Program      **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed  
**Related Programs:**  
**Program Characteristics:** Measure 5 Education

**Executive Summary**

School Attendance Supports provides attendance case workers in three school districts to respond to high chronic absence rates. Case workers meet intensively with 180 students and their parents to address barriers to attendance and engagement in school. The case workers are part of the integrated Communities Supporting Youth Collaborative effort and the program leverages resources from the All Hands Raised Partnership, the six SUN partner school districts and Oregon Department of Human Services District Two.

**Program Summary**

Nearly one-in-four Multnomah County students is chronically absent (attending fewer than 90% of school days), a critical tipping point that predicts academic struggles, disconnection from school and ultimately a severed path to family-sustaining employment. Chronic absenteeism has been recognized as a critical issue by the Obama administration, which launched a chronic absence initiative tied to My Brother's Keeper efforts in 2015. Chronic absenteeism, which disproportionately affects poor students and students of color, helps drive Multnomah County's graduation below the Oregon average, which itself is the fourth lowest graduation rate in the nation.

Family and student stability, health, and access to services are critical to ensuring consistent attendance. An integrated approach linking school-based planning and early warning systems with targeted outreach and supports for high-risk students and families has demonstrated results both locally and nationally. As part of School Attendance Supports, three attendance case workers in three districts (David Douglas, Portland Public Schools and Centennial School Districts) offer intensive outreach and support services as part of each school's attendance protocol. Case workers work with students who have severe chronic absence rates and their families who experience multiple challenges including food instability, homelessness, limited parenting skills, limited life skills, unemployment, and other issues. Attendance case workers work in sites that are current demonstration sites for the Communities Supporting Youth Collaborative, and other schools with high chronic absence rates. The initiative builds on proven strategies and existing school-based infrastructure by embedding advocates who act as case workers in schools to drive down chronic absenteeism through integrated social service delivery.

The School Attendance Supports is a collaborative effort, delivered in SUN Community School sites, which leverages significant resources from school districts, the Oregon Department of Human Services, non-profits and the community. The three attendance case worker positions are jointly funded with school districts, leveraging \$150,000.

**Performance Measures**

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY15 Actual	FY16 Purchased	FY16 Estimate	FY17 Offer
Output	Number of students served with intensive attendance supports	469	180	180	180
Outcome	% of students who increase their attendance rate by the end of the school year*	48%	N/A*	65%	65%

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

\*Measure changed to reflect lessons learned in baseline year related to reasonable targets for students and families with multiple and complex barriers to attending (homelessness, mental illness, hunger, health issues, etc.)

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2016	2016	2017	2017
Contractual Services	\$204,652	\$0	\$204,652	\$0
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$204,652</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$204,652</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$204,652</b>		<b>\$204,652</b>	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
<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 2016: 25159A-16 School Attendance Supports