



Program #25159B - School Attendance Supports: Expand Services 2/19/2015

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs: 25159A
Program Characteristics: Out of Target

Executive Summary

This offer requests \$575,000 of County General Fund to expand the School Attendance Supports program to provide attendance case workers in five school districts to respond to high chronic absence rates. Attendance case workers will work intensively with 480 students and their parents/caregivers to address barriers to attendance and engagement in school. The case workers are part of the integrated Communities Supporting Youth Collaborative effort and leverages resources from the All Hands Raised Partnership, the six SUN partner school districts and Oregon DHS.

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, 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.

Findings from six Communities Supporting Youth attendance demonstration sites have shown that two additional levels of depth are critical to the success of attendance efforts in our SUN Community Schools: 1) family outreach and case work services and 2) additional SUN coordination capacity. This offer provides that level of depth at schools with high chronic absence rates. Eight attendance case workers will provide intensive outreach and support services in 24 SUN Community School sites. 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. 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. Results from attendance case workers using this model show strong results, with 75% or more of severely chronically absent students improving their attendance by at least five percentage points and many improving over 10 points.

The School Attendance Supports is a collaborative effort which leverages significant resources from school districts, the Oregon Department of Human Services, non-profits and the community. The attendance case worker positions will be jointly funded with school districts, leveraging \$350,000 from these partners.

Performance Measures

| Measure Type | Primary Measure | FY14 Actual | FY15 Purchased | FY15 Estimate | FY16 Offer |
|--------------|--|-------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| Output | Number of students served with intensive attendance supports | - | - | - | 480 |
| Outcome | % of students who increase their attendance rate by 5% or more by the end of the school year | - | - | - | 75% |

Performance Measures Descriptions

Revenue/Expense Detail

| | Proposed General Fund | Proposed Other Funds | Proposed General Fund | Proposed Other Funds |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | 2015 | 2015 | 2016 | 2016 |
| Program Expenses | | | | |
| Contractual Services | \$0 | \$0 | \$575,000 | \$0 |
| Total GF/non-GF | \$0 | \$0 | \$575,000 | \$0 |
| Program Total: | \$0 | | \$575,000 | |
| 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: