

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

Executive Summary

Multnomah County is experiencing an unprecedented housing crisis, further exacerbated by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The legacy and cumulative effects of systemic racism and discrimination have meant that Black, Indigenous and other communities of color (BIPOC) are the most severely impacted by the housing crisis. Many critical housing supports such as renter's rights, housing navigation and wrap-around services can be difficult to access and lack cultural specificity. Developed in the 2019 Renter Relations report, the Peer Navigation Program will create a system of peer counselors that can provide 1:1, culturally specific, peer coaching and resource sharing to support BIPOC households to meet their housing goals.

Program Summary

ISSUE: BIPOC renters in Multnomah County are rent burdened and experiencing disproportionate economic impacts from COVID-19. In September of 2020, PSU released a report that showed the 56% of BIPOC renters were owing arrears as compared to 35% of all renters. While there are resources and support programs available to support renters, knowing how to access and navigate all of those systems can create a barrier for many households.

PROGRAM GOAL: To develop a Peer Navigation Program that will provide ongoing, culturally specific peer support to BIPOC households that will improve housing stability or assist in connecting with stable housing and prevent homelessness.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: Two activities are included in this program offer. First, Peer Navigation Program will lead with race and provide culturally specific 1:1 peer support and coaching including sharing tools and support renters to establish goals to work on credit, evictions and budgeting. Counselors will use a trauma-informed Assertive Engagement approach and will coordinate and facilitate culturally specific education and empowerment groups on subjects such as tenant protections and courses similar to "rent ready" classes. Peers are recommended reflecting Renter Relations Report findings that peer support for renters to establish their own goals to work on credit, evictions, and budgeting yields better results. Peer counselors will also coordinate and facilitate culturally specific education and empowerment groups to address historical and ongoing barriers while teaching people how to advocate and navigate their way to more stable housing. Peer counselors also are able to advocate for tenants and support communications with landlords and property managers, such as unit inspections. Second, 1.00 FTE (limited duration) staff position to develop and implement this program, and other aligned initiatives in the YFS Housing Stability Team.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Number of households supported by peer mentors	N/A	N/A	N/A	250
Outcome	Percent of households who experience improvement in self identified housing goals.	N/A	N/A	N/A	70%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$115,000
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,000
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$515,000
Program Total:	\$0		\$515,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$515,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$515,000

Explanation of Revenues

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Direct County Funding - \$515,000

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was:

This program addresses the Crisis Response & Community Recovery priority by creating a peer led program that will support BIPOC tenants to retain stable housing. It also adds staff capacity to support this program's development and implementation - and other housing stability programs in the Youth & Family Services Division.