



Program #30500 - Diversion Services **FY 2025 Department Requested**

Department: Joint Office of Homeless Services **Program Contact:** Daniel Field
Program Offer Type: Operating **Program Offer Stage:** Department Requested
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

This program offer maintains existing capacity to divert people from homelessness who are escaping domestic violence, facing imminent housing loss, or are exiting the criminal justice and healthcare systems. This program will divert hundreds of people from street and shelter homelessness. The Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) recognizes diversion as a critical strategy to reduce the number of people experiencing street and shelter homelessness in the community. In order to advance JOHS's commitment to achieving racial equity, an essential focus of this programming must be to eliminate disparate rates of homelessness on the basis of race and ethnicity.

Program Description

Diversion programs vary by implementation, but have in common the assessment of an individual who is facing living on the streets or in shelter to determine whether they have a housing option they could access with a modest, one-time, investment. Diversion is recognized nationally and locally as a critical tool in reducing street and shelter homelessness.

- Family Diversion has been a successful intervention for both preventing families from coming to emergency shelter and moving families out of shelter quickly. All families are surveyed to determine if they have an immediate housing option and, if so, diversion resources are used to help them capitalize on that opportunity.
- Domestic Violence Diversion services focus on preventing homelessness and diverting domestic violence survivors and their children from shelters through eviction prevention or housing placement. Diversion services offer flexible, rapid responses that allow survivors to avoid the trauma and safety risks of becoming homeless. These services reach hundreds of survivors annually and serve a diverse population.
- Hospital Diversion partners with the hospital system to provide essential rental assistance and care coordination resources to hospital discharge workers to allow patients to discharge to housing options and not to the streets or shelter.
- Transportation Assistance diverts individuals from the streets and shelter through one-time transportation assistance to a location where they have a verified housing option. Most commonly this program reunites individuals with family in other communities.
- Benefit Assistance serves homeless and formerly homeless individuals with assistance in securing Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Income, and/or Medicaid and Medicare benefits. These benefits provide critical financial and healthcare resources that allow recipients to avoid homelessness.

Performance Measures

| Measure Type | Performance Measure | FY23 Actual | FY24 Budgeted | FY24 Estimate | FY25 Target |
|--------------|--|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Output | Number of participants receiving diversion services | 871 | 1,170 | 980 | 1,170 |
| Outcome | Percentage of exits to permanent housing | 80% | 80% | 75% | 80% |
| Outcome | Number of people served with benefits acquisition assistance (BEST) | 390 | 480 | 410 | 480 |
| Outcome | BIPOC participate in program at rate as high or higher than percent of HUD homeless population | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Performance Measures Descriptions

Revenue/Expense Detail

| | Adopted General Fund | Adopted Other Funds | Department Requested General Fund | Department Requested Other Funds |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---|--|
| Program Expenses | 2024 | 2024 | 2025 | 2025 |
| Contractual Services | \$1,336,876 | \$1,522,548 | \$786,768 | \$2,167,017 |
| Total GF/non-GF | \$1,336,876 | \$1,522,548 | \$786,768 | \$2,167,017 |
| Program Total: | \$2,859,424 | | \$2,953,785 | |
| Program FTE | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| Program Revenues | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Intergovernmental | \$0 | \$933,702 | \$0 | \$490,705 |
| Beginning Working Capital | \$128,130 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,100,850 |
| Total Revenue | \$128,130 | \$933,702 | \$0 | \$1,591,555 |

Explanation of Revenues

County General fund plus \$575,462 Video Lottery Fund allocated to Multnomah County to be used for the purpose of furthering economic development in accordance with ORS 461.512, \$1,100,850 carryover from the FY 2024 Supportive Housing Services (SHS) allocation to Multnomah County through the SHS Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Oregon Metro Regional Government, and \$490,705 City of Portland General Fund allocation through Multnomah County's IGA with the City of Portland.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2024: 30500 Diversion Services