

**Program #30500B - Benefits and Entitlements Specialist Team (BEST) Expansion**

FY 2024 Adopted

**Department:** Joint Office of Homeless Services      **Program Contact:** Daniel Field  
**Program Offer Type:** New      **Program Offer Stage:** Adopted  
**Related Programs:** 30500  
**Program Characteristics:** One-Time-Only Request

**Executive Summary**

This Program Offer makes a one-time allocation to expand the capacity to provide people experiencing homelessness who have serious and persistent disabling conditions with the support they need to complete the application for, and be approved to receive, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and other long-term disability benefits from the Federal Government. This investment responds to the backlog of demand for these critical benefits acquisition services created during the pandemic, and represents a very effective use of one-time funds to help people experiencing chronic homelessness obtain an ongoing source of income.

**Program Description**

The Joint Office of Homeless Services has funded a local non-profit organization to provide assistance to people experiencing homelessness to navigate the very complex social security disability application process for several years. Benefits acquisition assistance is a critical support service that is recognized as an essential part of helping people with serious and ongoing disabling conditions make successful and sustainable transitions out of homelessness.

This Program Offer provides a one-time allocation to address the increased demand for benefits assistance that exists as a result of the pandemic's impact on our most vulnerable populations and the organizations that continued to work to serve them. Specifically, the funding in this Program Offer will allow two specialists to process and file applications for Federal disability benefits. This is an expansion of capacity that is funded in Program Offer 30500A.

**Performance Measures**

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budgeted	FY23 Estimate	FY24 Offer
Output	Contracted benefits specialists FTE to process and file federal long term disability benefit applications.	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.00
Outcome	Number of successful applications for federal long-term disability benefits awarded.	N/A	N/A	N/A	27
Outcome	Each Community of Color served at rates as high/higher than their proportion of chronically homeless population	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2023	2023	2024	2024
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$250,000	\$0
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$250,000</b>	
<b>Program FTE</b>	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

One Time Only County General Fund

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2023: 30907 ARP - COVID-19 Benefits and Entitlements Specialist Team (BEST)