

Department: Joint Office of Homeless Services **Program Contact:** Marc Jolin
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Street outreach is a critical strategy to ensure people experiencing unsheltered homelessness are provided with access to basic survival supplies, receive critical information on available resources, and are assisted to navigate to those resources. Especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, having individuals who can bring services and supports to where people are is more essential than ever. This program offer funds significantly expanding culturally specific outreach services, recognizing that to be most effective, outreach services should be delivered by and for the diverse racial and ethnic communities that make up our unsheltered populations.

Program Summary

Homelessness, including unsheltered homelessness, disproportionately impacts Communities of Color. Continued systemic, institutional, and individual racism pushes higher numbers of Black, Indigenous and other People of Color (BIPOC) into homelessness and makes escaping homelessness significantly more difficult. That is why Multnomah County, like communities across the country, sees rates of homelessness for BIPOC significantly higher than rates for Non-Hispanic whites. This is seen across homeless subpopulations, including among adults, families with children, domestic violence survivors, youth, people experiencing chronic homelessness, and among people who identify as LGBTQIA+. This overrepresentation is also seen among those living unsheltered, as well as those in shelter, or living in doubled up situations.

It is because of the additional barriers faced by BIPOC that the Joint Office of Homeless Services prioritizes the provision of culturally specific and culturally responsive services within all aspects of the homeless response system. Culturally specific services provided by and for Communities of Color that are overrepresented among people experiencing homelessness are particularly critical to eliminating racial disparities and meeting the commitment to support everyone in the community to end their homelessness.

This program offer expands culturally specific services in one particularly critical area of the homeless services continuum of care, especially given the impacts of COVID-19 on the unsheltered population and Communities of Color. By investing in new culturally specific outreach capacity focused on overrepresented Communities of Color, this program offer helps ensure that members of those communities who are living unsheltered in encampments, vehicles, or other places not meant for human habitation are connected to critical resources, including survival supplies, a range of shelter and support services, and, ultimately, permanent housing. Culturally specific outreach workers are able to build trust and tailor their work to the specific needs of their communities. They can help those they serve navigate mainstream service systems and institutions that too often are not culturally responsive and overcome the additional barriers created by ongoing racism.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Culturally specific outreach workers	N/A	N/A	N/A	5
Outcome	People receiving assistance to access services	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,000

Performance Measures Descriptions

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$425,000
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$425,000
Program Total:	\$0		\$425,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$425,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$425,000

Explanation of Revenues

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Direct County Funding - \$425,000

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was:

This program offer provides core services supporting people in our care.