



Program #40084A - Culturally Specific Mental Health Services 5/2/2022

Department: Health Department **Program Contact:** Christa Jones
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Behavioral health is fundamental to the overall health and well-being of an individual and is the basis for positive impacts to family, community, and society. In 2003, Multnomah County affirmed a strong commitment to embracing a multicultural approach to behavioral health in mobilizing the talents, cultures, and assets of the County’s diverse populations to improve the quality of our behavioral health system at the community level. The County identified African American/ Black; Asian/ Pacific Islander; Latino/ Hispanic; Native American/ Alaska Native; and Slavic/ Eastern European/ Russian-Speaking as cultural communities with significant disparities in access to both treatment services and education/prevention opportunities. This was reaffirmed in Spring 2021, when the County declared racism a public health crisis.

Program Summary

Behavioral health services have historically not been designed to reflect the specific culture, values, and shared identities of Black, Indigenous and other People of Color (BIPOC). To address this gap, Multnomah County funds culturally specific services for BIPOC persons that are better able to address and decrease identified disparities, and develop culturally specific models to build and sustain healthy families and communities. The County recognizes that expanding access to and improving the quality of behavioral health treatment and prevention/education opportunities for the specific communities is imperative.

The system of care built and maintained by Multnomah County must reflect the demographics of those we serve. To ensure that all members of our community have treatment options that incorporate specific cultural needs, the county contracts for mental health services for individuals from communities with significant disparities in access to both treatment services and education/prevention opportunities. Multnomah County mental health prevalence data suggest that members of the African American and Native American communities are more likely to be placed in restrictive settings such as hospitals and jails as a result of mental health symptoms. Additionally, African Americans are overrepresented in correctional facilities and the criminal justice system. Culturally-specific services address mental health concerns and the intersectionality with the criminal legal system through access to culturally and linguistically appropriate treatment including culturally appropriate outreach, engagement, and treatment services. Culturally responsive interventions can mitigate the need for expensive hospital, residential levels of care, or crisis services. Contractors provide comprehensive psychiatric, mental health, and substance use disorder assessments/evaluations that are culturally and linguistically appropriate focused on early-identification/crisis-prevention, and are part of a comprehensive health care system. They also provide case management, medication evaluation and management, and/ or monitoring, treatment services and support, individual, group, and/ or family therapy, benefits assistance, basic needs assessment, wraparound support, and comprehensive referral services, individual and group psychosocial skill development, crisis intervention services, services designed to improve family relationships and community support systems, and education and awareness-building opportunities.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budgeted	FY22 Estimate	FY23 Offer
Output	Total culturally diverse individuals receiving services ¹	1414	900	892	900
Outcome	Culturally specific persons served per 1,000 culturally diverse in population ²	5.4	3.6	3.4	3.6

Performance Measures Descriptions

¹This total includes all persons served under this contract and does not include those culturally-diverse persons served by Multnomah MH or in other programs.
²Service Rate Per 1,000 Calculation-Numerator: Total unduplicated culturally-diverse individuals served.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

N/A

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2022	2022	2023	2023
Contractual Services	\$1,829,433	\$0	\$1,897,008	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,829,433	\$0	\$1,897,008	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,829,433		\$1,897,008	
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: FY 2022: 40084 Culturally Specific Mental Health Services

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on all community members of Multnomah County. BIPOC Communities have had a disproportionate impact from COVID-19, such as increased rates of infection, higher mortality rates, and further limitations on access to health and behavioral health services. Culturally specific providers have been disproportionately tapped to develop interventions and responses to the need and at times needing to pivot toward COVID-19 specific response programming. Further, prior to the pandemic, there were gaps in growing a diverse workforce, that was further exacerbated by the pandemic. This has resulted in some providers needing to pause some services due to insufficient staffing