

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Mark Sanford
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted
Related Programs: 25026B
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Public Guardian/Conservator program (PGC), under court authority, makes vital decisions for 179 adults who are mentally incapacitated, dependent and impoverished, and are victims of physical abuse, neglect and financial exploitation. Legal authority enables intervention when no other approach resolves abuse and neglect. PGC consults with county programs, families and community partners on strategies and resources to support vulnerable adults with diminished abilities and diverts additional at-risk clients to less restrictive, less costly alternatives to publicly funded guardianship.

Program Summary

The Public Guardian/Conservator program (PGC) is an essential part of the county response system for abuse and neglect when legal authority is required to provide for the safety and well-being of incapable adults. Program staff work with adult protective services, law enforcement and area hospitals to intervene early to resolve fraud, abuse and neglect of extremely vulnerable adults. This includes participation on County Human Services Multi-Disciplinary Teams to assure that alternatives are considered, focusing public funds on at-risk citizens without other options or resources.

The program serves as the court-appointed guardian and/or conservator for mentally incapable adults who are characterized by the following: moderate to severe intellectual or developmental disability, treatment-resistant mental illness, Alzheimer's or other dementia, brain injury, and complex medical and behavioral issues. In addition, these individuals frequently have chronic medical conditions, no access to healthcare, lack housing and adequate care or are high utilizers of social/medical services, and are in need of financial management. Program clients are functionally incapacitated, requiring intensive supports and specialized housing arrangements to balance the need for protection with the right to autonomy. This public service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to make medical, psychiatric and life decisions for program clients. Guardians develop care and safety plans that also maximize the individual's self-reliance.

Clients served by the PGC are 80% white, 9% Black/African American, 3% American Indian/Alaska Native, 3% Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 3% Hispanic/Latino, and 2% Other; 61% female, 39% male; and on average 62 years of age. Guardianship and conservatorship ensure an annual maximum of about 175 county residents (based on current program funding constraints) access to safe and appropriate housing, medical care, psychiatric treatment, long term care, income and benefits. Without this option, clients experience continuing victimization, frequent emergency room and hospital psychiatric admissions, homelessness, unnecessary protective services and law enforcement intervention, involuntary civil commitments, and increased risk of premature death. Because of funding constraints, if PGC is unable to serve directly, the program provides consultative services to divert additional at-risk clients into less restrictive, less costly alternatives, or family and private guardianships / conservatorships.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY14 Actual	FY15 Purchased	FY15 Estimate	FY16 Offer
Output	Number of intakes per year ¹	25	20	15	15
Outcome	Urgent client safety needs addressed within five days after court appointment ²	95%	100%	95%	100%
Output	Referrals appropriately diverted to less costly resources ³	160	155	145	155

Performance Measures Descriptions

¹Number of new intakes for PGC is limited by attrition due to mortality.

²Urgent client safety issues are addressed immediately upon court appointment. Ongoing stabilization requires subsequent intense management over months or years.

³Successful diversions reduce costs across county services, e.g. jails, emergency services, 911, case management, etc.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

The decision to provide the service is in County Ordinance, Ch. 23.501. Under ORS Ch. 125, if the county chooses to reduce the service, it remains obligated to current clients, but can halt further intake if the Board of County Commissioners makes a finding that the program is no longer needed.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2015	2015	2016	2016
Personnel	\$1,023,506	\$0	\$1,058,510	\$0
Contractual Services	\$16,222	\$0	\$22,640	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$31,565	\$0	\$39,160	\$0
Internal Services	\$155,293	\$0	\$173,303	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,226,586	\$0	\$1,293,613	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,226,586		\$1,293,613	
Program FTE	10.00	0.00	10.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

\$40,000 - Public Guardian Fees

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2015: 25026A ADS Public Guardian/Conservator