

Department: Community Justice **Program Contact:** Laura Bisbee
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Family Court Services (FCS) helps keep children safe, families stable, and promotes public safety through services to families as they experience the major life transition of separation or divorce. Exposure to parental conflict and the potential loss of a parent through separation or divorce places children at risk for delinquency, teen pregnancy, behavioral health issues, and poor school performance, which can lead to a cycle of dysfunction and offending behavior. These services help promote healthy parenting dynamics and communication.

Program Summary

Through parent education, mediation, information and referral services, and child custody evaluation, FCS stabilizes families involved with the Family Court and plays a critical role in preventing family dysfunction, childhood stress, and juvenile delinquency. Parent education and mediation are state mandated services for parents involved in the Family Court system.

The Parent Education Program provides relevant legal and parenting information to Multnomah County parents experiencing separation or divorce.

In addition to Parent Education, FCS provides child custody and parenting time mediation to over 1,000 families per year and conducts comprehensive child custody evaluations to assist families experiencing high levels of conflict. FCS also produces materials such as the “Birth Through Three” and “Second Chances” handbooks for use by parents and others in need of information relevant to co-parenting issues. Reducing parental conflict during separation decreases risks for delinquency and teen pregnancy, decreases subsequent litigation, and increases children’s meaningful contact with both parents (Wallerstein 1998; Emery 2001; Sarkadi et al. 2008).

FCS is housed in the Downtown Courthouse and services are available at the Juvenile Court and East County Courthouse in order to better serve the residents of East Multnomah County.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budgeted	FY20 Estimate	FY21 Offer
Output	Percent of individuals satisfied with parent education classes	91%	90%	90%	90%
Outcome	Percent of custody/parenting time evaluations resulting in settlement	80%	75%	75%	75%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2020	2020	2021	2021
Personnel	\$336,820	\$764,427	\$417,036	\$711,818
Contractual Services	\$0	\$61,819	\$0	\$62,684
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$23,546	\$320	\$22,990
Internal Services	\$0	\$211,997	\$0	\$272,412
Total GF/non-GF	\$336,820	\$1,061,789	\$417,356	\$1,069,904
Program Total:	\$1,398,609		\$1,487,260	
Program FTE	2.43	6.37	2.96	6.04

Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$0	\$978,172	\$0	\$989,354
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$83,617	\$0	\$80,550
Total Revenue	\$0	\$1,061,789	\$0	\$1,069,904

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$123,287 in indirect revenues.

County General Fund plus 1) \$778,354 in State funding for conciliation and mediation services assumes continued funding at current level. 2) \$81,000 - Conciliation Services fee collected as part of \$60 marriage license fees of which \$10 is a conciliation services fee. 3) \$5,000 - Child Custody Evaluation Case-Opening Fees. 70% of clients qualify for a waiver. 4) \$125,000 for Parenting Education Program fees. Fee of \$70 is collected per ORS 205.320 and 107.510 to 107.610, and are set by Board Resolution. 5) \$80,550 Access & Visitation grant from US Dept. of Health and Human Services. Funding provides access and visitation services to non-custodial parents who are having difficulty establishing visitation and a legally enforceable parenting plan. Assuming FY 2020 funding will continue in FY 2021.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2020: 50052-20 Family Court Services

This program offer adds 0.20 FTE marriage and family counselor associate in FY 2021. The temporary pay budget was reduced in this program offer to cover the cost of the increased FTE.

Additionally, 0.35 FTE is backfilled with General Fund that was previously funded by a State contract for conciliation and mediation services and 0.02 FTE is shifted from General Fund to the US Dept. of HHS Access & Visitation grant for a net 0.33 FTE backfill in the General Fund.

Internal services costs increased by \$68,000 based on the opening of the new courthouse.