



**Program #50052B - Family Court Services & Safety First**

2/19/2015

**Department:** Community Justice      **Program Contact:** Janice Garceau  
**Program Offer Type:** Existing Operating Program      **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested  
**Related Programs:**  
**Program Characteristics:** Out of Target

**Executive Summary**

Family Court Services (FCS) and the Safety First Program (SFP) help keep parents healthy and children safe by providing targeted services to approximately 1,400 families per year experiencing divorce/separation related conflict and domestic violence related safety concerns. FCS and SFP provide parent education, child custody mediation and evaluation, information and referral services, and supervised visitation/safe exchange to Multnomah County families involved in divorce, child custody, and domestic violence related Court proceedings.

**Program Summary**

FCS provides divorce and parenting information classes and child custody mediation to over 2,500 Multnomah County parents a year who are experiencing separation or divorce. FCS also conducts approximately 40 child custody evaluations annually to assist the court in making custody and parenting time decisions for families experiencing high levels of conflict. 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). Additional staffing will increase their capacity to provide custody evaluations and legal services to Domestic Violence survivors.

SFP provides supervised visitation and safe exchange services to at least 100 families a year in the tri-county area. SFP also supports legal services for 95 domestic violence survivors with children a year navigating contested custody and/or restraining order court proceedings. Research identifies the period in which a victim leaves a violent relationship as the highest risk period for increased violence or homicide. Research shows that witnessing domestic violence contributes to children demonstrating depression, aggression, anxiety and problems in school. Child abuse and domestic violence co-occur at an overall rate of at least 40%, making children in these families doubly at risk (Bancroft, 2002; Campbell, 2004; National Survey Summary on Children's Exposure to Violence 2010)

Domestic violence offenders seek custody at higher rates than in other families and contested custody cases present with higher levels of reported domestic violence than the general population (Jaffre 2003, Saccuzzo & Johnson 2004, Multnomah County 2010 Courtwatch)

**Performance Measures**

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY14 Actual	FY15 Purchased	FY15 Estimate	FY16 Offer
Output	Complete 10 additional custody evaluations per year	NEW	NEW	NEW	10
Outcome	Percent of custody evaluations resulting in settlement	NEW	NEW	NEW	80%
Output	Provide legal services to an additional 95 DV survivors	NEW	NEW	NEW	95

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2015	2015	2016	2016
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$124,293	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$416	\$0
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$124,709</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$124,709</b>	
<b>Program FTE</b>	0.00	0.00	1.60	0.00

Program Revenues				
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Explanation of Revenues

County General Fund

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: