



Program #50052 - Family Court Services 4/21/2021

Department: Community Justice **Program Contact:** Laura Bisbee
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed
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 have been available at the Juvenile Court and East County Courthouse in order to better serve the residents of East Multnomah County. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted operations beginning in March 2020. FCS staffs have shifted to providing services virtually. In person services will resume when it is safe to do so. Virtual options may still be available and staff will assess where best to offer services.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Percent of individuals satisfied with parent education classes	89%	90%	90%	90%
Outcome	Percent of individuals satisfied with process of mediation	NEW	NEW	75%	75%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Measure 2: Changed due to program changes caused by COVID-19. Previous measure was "Percent of custody/parenting time evaluations resulting in settlement." The FY 2020 Actual would have been 90%.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Personnel	\$417,036	\$711,818	\$509,879	\$685,475
Contractual Services	\$0	\$62,684	\$0	\$63,684
Materials & Supplies	\$320	\$22,990	\$2,340	\$17,756
Internal Services	\$0	\$272,412	\$0	\$270,416
Total GF/non-GF	\$417,356	\$1,069,904	\$512,219	\$1,037,331
Program Total:	\$1,487,260		\$1,549,550	
Program FTE	2.96	6.04	3.72	5.28

Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$0	\$989,354	\$0	\$952,266
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$80,550	\$0	\$85,065
Total Revenue	\$0	\$1,069,904	\$0	\$1,037,331

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$115,708 in indirect revenues. County General Fund plus 1) \$778,354 in state funding for conciliation & mediation services expect continued funding at current level. State allocation is formula base 2) \$61,641 Conciliation Services fee \$10 collected as part of \$60 marriage license fees 3) \$2,400 Child Custody Evaluation Case-Opening Fees. Fees are published in the FY 2022 Master Fee Schedule & 70% of clients qualify for a waiver 4) \$109,871 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) \$85,065 Access & Visitation grant from US Dept. of Health and Human Services. Funding provides access & visitation services to non-custodial parents who are having difficulty establishing visitation and a legally enforceable parenting plan. Expect FY 2021 funding will continue in FY 2022.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 50052 Family Court Services