

Department: Joint Office of Homeless Services **Program Contact:** Marc Jolin
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

A Home for Everyone (AHFE) has identified diversion as a critical strategy to reduce the number of people experiencing street and shelter homelessness in the community. AHFE holds achieving racial equity as a core goal, and eliminating disparate rates of homelessness on the basis of race and ethnicity must be a focus of programming. This program funds existing capacity to divert people from homelessness who are escaping domestic violence, facing imminent housing loss, or are exiting the criminal justice and healthcare systems. This program will divert hundreds of men, women and children from street and shelter homelessness.

Program Summary

Diversion programs vary by implementation, but have in common the assessment of an individual who is facing living on the streets or in shelter to determine whether they have a housing option they could access with a modest, one-time, financial and/or staffing investment. Diversion is recognized nationally and locally as a critical tool in reducing street and shelter homelessness.

- Family Diversion has been a successful intervention for both preventing families from coming to emergency shelter and moving families out of shelter quickly. All families are surveyed to determine if they have an immediate housing option and, if so, diversion resources are used to help them capitalize on that opportunity.
- Criminal Justice Diversion resources are directed to people leaving incarceration through a partnership with the County's Department of Community Justice (DCJ) that offers access to employment, treatment, and housing assistance resources to ensure that they do not become homeless.
- DV Diversion services focus on preventing homelessness and diverting domestic violence survivors and their children from shelters through eviction prevention or housing placement. Diversion services offer flexible, rapid responses that allow survivors to avoid the trauma and safety risks of becoming homeless. These services reach hundreds of survivors annually and serve a diverse population, with 82% identifying as People of Color.
- Hospital Diversion partners with the hospital system to provide essential rental assistance and care coordination resources to hospital discharge workers to allow patients to discharge to housing options and not to the streets or shelter.
- Transportation Assistance diverts individuals from the streets and shelter through one-time transportation assistance to a location where they have a verified housing option. Most commonly this program reunites individuals with family in other communities.
- Benefit Assistance serves homeless and formerly homeless individuals with assistance in securing Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), and/or Medicaid and Medicare benefits. These benefits provide critical financial and health care resources that allow recipients to avoid homelessness.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Number of participants receiving diversion services	1,829	1,800	1,630	1,640
Outcome	Percentage of exits to permanent housing*	88%	95%	86%	86%
Outcome	Number of people served with benefits acquisition assistance (BEST)**	445	400	460	450
Outcome	Overrepresented BIPOC exit to permanent housing at rate as high or higher than percent of population**	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes

Performance Measures Descriptions

- *This measure excludes BEST, Health Connections and Peer Health Navigators. The COVID-19 pandemic, which began in FY 2020, has significantly impacted the performance measures associated with this program offer.
- **This is a new equity measure intended to demonstrate whether program offer investments are meeting the commitment to reduce racial disparities in homelessness overall, and in specific programs.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Contractual Services	\$1,195,390	\$1,557,930	\$1,415,670	\$1,381,700
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,195,390	\$1,557,930	\$1,415,670	\$1,381,700
Program Total:	\$2,753,320		\$2,797,370	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$1,557,930	\$0	\$1,381,700
Beginning Working Capital	\$285,000	\$0	\$289,560	\$0
Total Revenue	\$285,000	\$1,557,930	\$289,560	\$1,381,700

Explanation of Revenues

City of Portland General Fund \$1,381,700
 Multnomah County Tax Title \$289,560

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 10055 Diversion Services