

Program # 10015C - Family Advocate Model-Child Abuse Prevention**Version 2/01/2005 s****Priority:** Vibrant Communities**Lead Agency:** Commission on**Program Offer Type:** Existing Operating**Program Contact:** Wendy Lebow**Related Programs:****Frameworks:** School Aged Policy Framework, Early Childhood Framework, Poverty Framework**Executive Summary**

The Family Advocate Model prevents child abuse/neglect by serving families with children aged 0-17 reported to the DHS Child Welfare Hotline, in which there is an indication of a serious issue, but not extreme enough to warrant state involvement. The Family Advocate Models connects these families to coordinated community supports.

Program Description

In Multnomah County, the DHS hotline receives 250 calls each month indicating family problems not deemed serious enough to warrant state involvement. The Family Advocate Model provides assessment, information/referral, home visiting, case management and advocacy on a voluntary basis to approximately 100 of these families per month. The goal is to reduce crisis and connect families to resources as a key strategy in reducing child abuse/neglect.

Program Justification

The Basic Living Needs Team identifies vulnerable populations as the mentally ill persons; persons experiencing a major crisis; and people with physical/developmental disabilities. Family Advocate (F.A.) referrals often concern persons experiencing these challenges. Unaddressed, they can place the children in these homes at high-risk for abuse/neglect. These "vulnerable" families require ongoing, well-integrated community support to ensure their basic living needs are met and their families are safe, stable and healthy. This offering aligns with the Vibrant Community Goals by proposing to continue serving a high number of families and maximizing coordination among entities.

Performance Measures

Goal #1. Reduced Child Abuse/Neglect; Outcome: Families served have significantly reduced contact with child protection services; Results: F.A. Families served with subsequent founded referrals with child protection services: 13.3%; compared to similar families NOT served with subsequent founded referrals with child protection services: 28%. Goal #2 Increase Family Stability; Outcome: Families report an increased ability to care for their families and experience less stress; Results: F.A. families initially reported a myriad of challenges including: Financial, parenting skills, unemployment, mental health and behavioral issues and unstable/unsafe housing. At the conclusion of services families identified many strengths, such as: Care/concern for child safety, stable/safe housing, adult support system, connections to school, stable income, parenting skills and community ties.

Summary of last year's program results and this year's expected results

To date, most families who accept F.A. services/follow-through are able to create a safe and stable family situation. Summarizing the Family Satisfaction Surveys and 3 month evaluations, many families ask for longer services, parenting support and on-going assistance to maintain changes. Families exiting Family Advocate Services identified Parent Education as a high priority need. We're working with Portland State University's Child Welfare Partnership to fund a Parent Education program/evaluation. This goal is reflected in the Basic Living Need Team's Priorities of ensuring families are connected to long-term services.

Program Mandate: 4 Program and Funding Level Choice**Revenue/Expense Detail**

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2005	2005	2006	2006
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$153,367
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$939
Internal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$978
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$155,284
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$44,655
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$44,655
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$199,939
Program Total:	\$0		\$199,939	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$155,284
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$44,655
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$199,939

Explanation of Revenues

Funding for this program comes from Family Preservation and Support, passed through from the Oregon Commission on Children and Families; as well as from the Department of Human Services, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Grant funds are estimated based on the FY 2005 appropriation.

Significant Program Changes

We are working in partnership with the Department Human of Services to expand our Family Advocate model to begin serving families identified by the TANF program of DHS; further strengthening our program model.