

<b>Priority:</b>	Safety Net Services	<b>Lead Agency:</b>	Community Justice
<b>Program Offer Type:</b>	Existing Operating	<b>Program Contact:</b>	Sharon James
<b>Related Programs:</b>			
<b>Frameworks:</b>	School Aged Policy Framework, Early Childhood Framework, Poverty Framework		

### **Executive Summary**

Family Court Services (FCS) helps parents stay clean and sober, keeps 2,500 families stable and healthy and keeps children safe through prompt drug abuse intervention, parent education, mediation, and other services for high-risk families in Family Court. FCS provides essential support to the Family Court in child abuse and neglect and divorce and separation proceedings.

### **Program Description**

FCS supports the effective coordination of child welfare, addiction treatment, family violence, criminal justice and court services to high-risk families and families involved in separation and divorce. FCS provides quick treatment referrals to parents who are facing child neglect proceedings because they have drug abuse problems (getting addicted parents into treatment fast improves treatment outcomes; FCS gets parents into treatment six times faster than the statewide average). FCS also coordinates court-related services to parents on probation or parole who also have pending abuse and neglect proceedings. As a result, family court judges are better informed about all the legal matters affecting the family, and parole officers and child protection caseworkers are more knowledgeable about what is happening in the home and are better able to protect children. In addition, FCS provides mediation to families in the process of a separation or divorce and education services to parents in Family Court. FCS also conducts Parenting/Custody studies pursuant to court order.

### **Program Justification**

FCS is closely aligned with the county's core Basic Living Needs strategies. Most dependency families have multiple, complex problems that put their health (and safety), housing and economic independence at risk. Of the nearly 1,000 families who enter the dependency court each year, more than 30% are involved in the criminal justice system, 25% are affected by violence, and 80% have drug or alcohol abuse problems. FCS provides quick behavioral health treatment and coordinated social service interventions to keep children safe and healthy and improve the ability of parents to be nurturing, self-sufficient care-givers. In addition, FCS provides essential support services to the family courts, which also support these priority safety net strategies. Through mediation and parent education, FCS increases the chance that children will be healthy and live in a stable, economically independent home.

### **Performance Measures**

Parents referred to treatment through the Family Intervention Team (FIT) will be placed in treatment within 17 days. 1,200 families will be served by FCS; 80% of families in custody and parenting services will be satisfied with services.

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

FIT refers addicted parents to treatment in an average of 17 days (compared to state average of 111 days). Last year, 2,200 parents received parent education; 1,200 received mediation; 214 received custody evaluations; and 906 dependency petitions were processed for 1,356 children. Families report an 80% satisfaction rate for families who received custody and parenting services.

**Program Mandate: 2 Mandated Program with Funding/Service Level Choice**

Programming provided by Family Court Services is mandated by ORS 3.220, 21.112, 3.425, ORS 417.355, and 419B.806.

**Revenue/Expense Detail**

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
<b>Program Expenses</b>	2005	2005	2006	2006
Personnel	\$0	\$741,087	\$262,644	\$669,094
Contracts	\$0	\$81,396	\$0	\$47,710
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$23,641	\$1,000	\$23,432
Internal Services	\$0	\$105,786	\$0	\$119,723
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$951,910</b>	<b>\$263,644</b>	<b>\$859,959</b>
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$55,275	\$8,208
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$162,835	\$815
Subtotal: Other Exps:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$218,110</b>	<b>\$9,023</b>
Total GF/non-GF:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$951,910</b>	<b>\$481,754</b>	<b>\$868,982</b>
Program Total:	<b>\$951,910</b>		<b>\$1,350,736</b>	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	4.00	8.00
<b>Program Revenues</b>				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$35,733	\$0	\$33,978	\$0
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$0	\$716,000	\$0	\$859,959
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$235,910	\$0	\$0
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$35,733</b>	<b>\$951,910</b>	<b>\$33,978</b>	<b>\$859,959</b>

**Explanation of Revenues**

The FIT and the Family Probation Program (FPP) are supported by county general fund revenue. Revenue for FCS comes largely from a surcharge on the filing fee for divorce and custody cases \$683,959, fees for parent education and evaluation services \$111,000, and a portion of the marriage license fee dedicated to conciliation services \$65,000.

**Significant Program Changes**

The courts have supported an increase in the fees for a variety of court filings, which will bring Multnomah County more in line with Clackamas, Washington and Lane Counties and allow Family Court Services program to retain most of their staff.