

Priority:	Safety	Lead Agency:	Community Justice
Program Offer Type:	Existing Operating	Program Contact:	Liv Jenssen
Related Programs:	25045, 25046, 25048, 25050, 25051A, 25054, 25055, 25058, 25059, 25062, 50006, 50007, 50008A, 50022, 50023, 50024		
Frameworks:	10-year Plan to End Homelessness		

Executive Summary

Transitional Services Unit (TSU) Offender Services stabilizes 2,600 high-risk and violent adult offenders (including psychopaths and predatory sex offenders) who are newly released from prison or jail, and prepares them to return to the community, avoid re-offending and comply with post-prison supervision. TSU provides dangerous or disabled offenders housing, medical benefits, and access to mental health and drug treatment. 95% of TSU's high-risk offenders comply with supervision during the time they are receiving TSU services.

Program Description

TSU offender services provide re-entry planning up to 120 days prior to release for high risk and/or special needs offenders from every Oregon prison and county jails. Once in the community, TSU works with offenders for the first 90 days after their release and links them to basic services, such as housing, food, clothing, mental health and drug abuse treatment and transportation, that stabilize the offender and lower the risk he will violate parole. Pre-release plans are tailored to address the risks each offender poses and problems in his life that spur his criminal activity. TSU assists vulnerable offenders, such as mentally, developmentally and physically disabled or elderly, in addition to violent offenders and predatory sex offenders. TSU also helps offenders stay on medications, obtain disability benefits, and conduct job searches.

Program Justification

TSU is a cost-effective, evidence-based program that protects the public by connecting extremely dangerous or vulnerable offenders with drug abuse and mental health treatment, housing and other services that lower an offender's risk of re-offending. Research shows that offenders who have access to supportive services and housing at re-entry (when they are mostly likely to re-offend) have a much lower re-arrest rate, lower drug use and a greater likelihood of employment (Vera Institute of Justice (2004), Corporation for Supportive Housing (2004)). TSU data is consistent with these findings: while the overall abscond rate among high-risk offenders is 15%, the abscond rate of offenders in TSU is three times less (around 5%). TSU also helps safety system components work together in ways that are cost-effective: for example, the Joint Access to Benefits (JAB) program is a collaborative TSU innovation that helps offenders qualify for federal disability benefits that cover mental health services, psychiatric medications and other care.

Performance Measures

80% of case plans will be closed successfully (e.g., no new convictions, complying with supervision conditions and completing case plan goals). 90% of the applications submitted to JAB will be approved.

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

Prior evaluations have shown that TSU reduces parole non-compliance and failures (Rhyne, 2002) between three to five times the baseline rate among high risk offenders. In 2004, 80% of case plans involving subsidy housing and other services were closed successfully. 90% of the applications submitted to JAB resulted in Social Security disability approval.

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

ORS 423.478: each "county, in partnership with the department, shall assume responsibility for community-based supervision, sanctions and services for offenders convicted of felonies who are:(a) On parole;(b) On probation;(c) On post-prison supervision." OAR 191-063-0005 through OAR 191-063-0040.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2005	2005	2006	2006
Program Expenses				
Personnel	\$764,270	\$0	\$380,428	\$0
Contracts	\$357,010	\$914,024	\$39,741	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$49,821	\$202,985	\$6,356	\$85,444
Internal Services	\$149,556	\$137,752	\$33,697	\$10,978
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$1,320,657	\$1,254,761	\$460,222	\$96,422
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$27,775	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$115,963	\$16,210
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$143,738	\$16,210
Total GF/non-GF:	\$1,320,657	\$1,254,761	\$603,960	\$112,632
Program Total:	\$2,575,418		\$716,592	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$47,658	\$0	\$3,922	\$0
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$1,232,066	\$0	\$96,422
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$51,658	\$1,232,066	\$7,922	\$96,422

Explanation of Revenues

Budget includes \$96,422 in State Department of Corrections funds and \$4,000 paid into the general fund from fees paid by clients. DOC funding will most likely be reduced for the new biennium.

Significant Program Changes

DOC funding will most likely be reduced for the new biennium.