

Priority: Basic Needs

Lead Agency: Commission on

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Program Contact: Lisa Hansell

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Family Advocate Model prevents child abuse/neglect by serving families with children age 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 Model offers voluntary services to these vulnerable families, connecting families to coordinated community supports.

Program Description

-The DHS Child Welfare Hotline receives hundreds of calls each month from concerned community members with reports of abuse and neglect. While many of the calls fall within the agency's guidelines for services, others do not. In Multnomah County, approximately 250 calls are "screened out" each month. Even though the state's Child Welfare Office does not serve these families they often determine that stresses in some of the families put them at risk of future abuse or neglect and a referral is made to the Family Advocate program (about 100 referrals each month).

-The Family Advocate program is a free, voluntary service that provides intervention and coordination of community resources to help keep children safe and healthy. The program provides a coordinated, team-based approach to service planning. It focuses on outcomes for the families rather than on client compliance. The services are community-based and tailored to the families' needs. It supports the families by working with them to identify risks and problems before things escalate to crisis situations, thus reducing the incidence of abuse and neglect.

-The core components of the model are 1) family advocate services (outreach and assessment, family action plans, self advocacy skill building, linkage to existing services follow-up and crisis management), 2) flexible funds, 3) community outreach and collaboration, and 4) parent involvement in program design and governance.

-LifeWorks NW provides these services through its Family and Community Alliance.

Program Justification

Included in the Basic Living Needs Team definition of vulnerable populations are people with physical and mental disabilities, people with chemical dependencies, children with special needs and those at risk of neglect and abuse, low income individuals and families, and others experiencing a major life crisis. Family Advocate referrals often concern persons experiencing these types of challenges. Unaddressed, these conditions can place the children in these homes at high-risk for abuse/neglect. These "vulnerable" families require well-integrated community support to ensure their basic living needs are met and their families are safe, stable and healthy. Family Advocates promote healthy behaviors by working with families to identify strengths, create action plans, link with services and teach self-advocacy skills.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY04-05)	Current Year Purchased (FY05-06)	Current Year Estimate (FY05-06)	Next Year Offer (FY06-07)
Output	# of Families Receiving Services	97	102	102	102
Outcome	Adequacy of Social Support Resources	84%	80%	80%	80%
Outcome	Reduced Child Maltreatment Rates	0%	80%	80%	80%

Performance Measure - Description

-# of Families Receiving Services: # of families engaged in full services.

-Adequacy of Social Support Resources: 80% of families successfully connect with at least 3 new supports, or strengthen existing supports. Measurement Tool: Case Notes (information gathered on closed cases)

-Child Maltreatment Rates: abuse, neglect and/or re-abuse rates - 80% of families completing services will not be re-reported to the Multnomah Child Abuse Hotline. Measurement Tool: Information from DHS Child Welfare Hotline.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

CCFC contracts with LifeWorks NW for these services. The current annual contract amount is \$130,685. A Request for Proposals is scheduled to be issued this Winter/Spring for these services.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2006	2006	2007	2007
Program Expenses				
Personnel	\$0	\$45,960	\$0	\$33,665
Contracts	\$0	\$153,367	\$0	\$150,851
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$8,778	\$0	\$4,103
Internal Services	\$0	\$6,663	\$0	\$8,903
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$214,768	\$0	\$197,522
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$48,088
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$48,088
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$214,768	\$0	\$245,610
Program Total:	\$214,768		\$245,610	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.33
Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$214,768	\$0	\$197,522
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$48,088
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$214,768	\$0	\$245,610

Explanation of Revenues

Funding for this program comes from Family Preservation and Support passed through from the Oregon Commission on Children and Families. Grant funds are estimated based on the FY 2006 appropriation.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was:

This program model was previously part of the statewide Community Safety Net. Family Support and Connections have replaced the Community Safety Net, effective September 30, 2005.