

Priority: Basic Needs
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs: 25098, 25099

Lead Agency: Community Justice
Program Contact: Dave Koch

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Family Court Services (FCS) helps keep families stable, children safe, and parents healthy through prompt drug abuse intervention, parent education, mediation, and other services for approximately 1,000 high-risk families as they go through dependency proceedings and/or separation and divorce. FCS provides essential support to the Family Court in child abuse, neglect, 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 with the Domestic Relations Court. FCS provides rapid treatment referrals to parents who are facing child neglect proceedings because of drug abuse problems (improving treatment outcomes), through the Family Involvement Team (FIT). FCS identifies parents on probation or parole that also have abuse and neglect proceedings pending. This strengthens the abilities of the court and DHS to protect vulnerable children. In addition, FCS provides parent education, mediation and evaluations to vulnerable families experiencing the major life crisis of separation or divorce, decreasing conflict and enabling the family to better navigate the judicial system.

Federal legislation, the American Safe Families Act, requires the court to make a determination on terminating parental custodial rights within 12 months of a child being removed from a home for abuse/neglect. The majority of parents involved in these cases suffer from substance abuse issues; access to and completion of treatment is a key factor. Nationally it takes on average 226 days for a parent to start treatment. In Oregon the average is 111 days whereas in Multnomah County that average is 17 days, thanks to FCS efforts.

Program Justification

FCS provides intervention and service coordination to families and protects children from abuse and neglect. 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 facilitates and coordinates behavioral health and social service interventions, helping to keep children who are at risk healthy by improving the ability of parents to be nurturing, self-sufficient care-givers. In addition, FCS provides essential support services to families going through the trauma of divorce and separation. Through mediation and parent education, FCS increases the chance that children will be healthy and live in a stable, economically independent home.

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	Number of families served by mediation services.	900	1,200	1,000	1,000
Outcome	Percent of client satisfaction with FCS.	59%	80%	66%	75%
Outcome	Percent of clients in treatment w/in 15 days of shelter hearing.	0%	0%	72%	77%

Performance Measure - Description

Legal/Contractual Obligation

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
	2006	2006	2007	2007
Program Expenses				
Personnel	\$262,644	\$669,094	\$289,333	\$748,714
Contracts	\$0	\$47,710	\$10,000	\$47,710
Materials & Supplies	\$1,000	\$23,432	\$2,440	\$23,795
Internal Services	\$0	\$119,723	\$0	\$123,956
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$263,644	\$859,959	\$301,773	\$944,175
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$73,307	\$19,777
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$217,494	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$290,801	\$19,777
Total GF/non-GF:	\$263,644	\$859,959	\$592,574	\$963,952
Program Total:	\$1,123,603		\$1,556,526	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	4.00	8.60
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$33,978	\$0	\$40,942	\$0
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$0	\$859,959	\$0	\$944,175
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$33,978	\$859,959	\$40,942	\$944,175

Explanation of Revenues

The FIT and the Family Probation Program (FPP) are supported by county general fund revenue \$301,773. Family Court Services revenue comes from a surcharge on the filing fee for divorce and custody cases, fees for parent education and evaluation services and a portion of the marriage license fee dedicated to conciliation services totalling \$944,175.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #50052A, Family Court Services