

Program # 10045 - Court Appearance Notification System

Version 1/27/2006 s

Priority: Safety
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Lead Agency: Local Public Safety
Program Contact: Judy Shiprack

Executive Summary

The Court Appearance Notification System is a collaborative multi-jurisdictional pilot program to reduce the county's high rate of court failure to appear (FTA) through the use of an automated telephone reminder. The telephone notification works to remind defendants of an upcoming court hearing date, its time and location, and additional court contact information. Among other savings, this system has been shown to cost-effectively reduce FTA. Regardless of the size of the criminal justice system, this program makes it run more efficiently. This program offer expands to full implementation in FY07.

Program Description

Services for this program are provided by vendor contract. The vendor provides telephone notification for all criminal case hearings for defendants with phone numbers. Various preliminary analyses for the Local Public Coordinating Council and the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee have identified that about 30% of criminal cases have people failing to appear (FTA) for their court hearings, typically for low-level offenses. These FTAs add substantial costs to the various enforcement agencies for re-arrest, re-booking and additional jailing, additional prosecution, and increased matrix releases and issued warrant backlogs. This program is based on a proven King County (Seattle) model which reduced the number of people failing to appear for court hearings. Independent research in King County found: people that FTA were twice as likely to go to jail and spent twice the amount of time in jail compared to those that did not FTA for the same crime. Multnomah County completed a preliminary process and outcome evaluation in January 2006. Results found that those successfully receiving calls failed to appear 16% of the time versus 23% who were phoned but did not get the message, and 28% for those who were not called because no phone number was on file.

Program Justification

This program meets several selection strategies by being fair and equitable, and evidence based; it holds offenders responsible; and it's a collaborative safety system response. Because FTA is a crime, reducing the number of FTAs will reduce the number of additional crimes; if it reduces the need for jail beds, then matrixes will decrease, likely increasing the citizens' perception of safety. This program is a collaboration between the state courts and multiple county public safety agencies. The Local Public Safety Coordinating Council will provide the contract management with the vendor, the District Attorney's Office will provide police training for various jurisdictions, the State Courts will provide project management and IT support, and the Budget Office will technical assistance.

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 scheduled court date phone reminders made	0	4,800	4,782	5,300
Outcome	% of reminders that were successfully received	0%	75%	75%	75%
Outcome	% of successful court dates reminders that failed to appear	0%	16%	16%	16%

Performance Measure - Description

This was a pilot program last year and the missing cells above reflect no data for FY05-- these are new measures. A process and outcome evaluation was completed in January 2006. Results found that those successfully receiving calls failed to appear 16% of the time versus 23% who were phoned but did not get the message, and 28% for those who were not called because no phone number was on file.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2006	2006	2007	2007
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$16,964	\$0
Contracts	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$40,000	\$0	\$56,964	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$40,000	\$0	\$56,964	\$0
Program Total:	\$40,000		\$56,964	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

✔ Significantly Changed

Last year this program was: #15024, Court Appearance Notification System
This offer includes temporary staffing to allow for full program implementation and outcome evaluation results in FY07. The temporary staffing should be considered one-time-only.