

Priority: Safety
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs: 50028A, 50029, 50030A, 50031, 50032A, 50033, 50034, 50035, 50036, 50037, 50042, 50049A, 50052A, 50053
Lead Agency: Community Justice
Program Contact: Kevin Criswell

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Transitional Services Unit (TSU) Offender Services annually stabilizes 2,600 high-risk and violent adult offenders newly released from prison or jail. TSU focuses its efforts on offenders who are mentally ill, physically or cognitively disabled, and/or sexually predatory, helping them return to the community, avoid re-offending, and comply with post-prison supervision. TSU helps dangerous or disabled offenders obtain food, clothing, housing, transportation, medical benefits, and access to mental health and drug treatment. 95% of TSU's high-risk offenders comply with supervision while they are receiving TSU services.

Program Description

TSU provides re-entry planning services up to 120 days before high risk and/or special needs offenders are released from any of the Oregon prisons and county jails. Once in the community, TSU works with offenders for the first 90 days after their release, linking them to such basic services as housing, food, clothing, transportation, and mental health and drug abuse treatment. These services help stabilize offenders, lowering the risk that they will violate parole. Pre-release plans are tailored to address the risks each offender poses as well as the life problems that spur criminal activity. TSU assists vulnerable offenders, including the elderly and those disabled mentally, developmentally, and physically, as well as violent and predatory sex offenders. TSU also helps offenders stay on medications, obtain disability benefits, and conduct job searches. In 2006, TSU will complete transition plans for 85% of the offenders released to Multnomah County who have special needs.

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 around 5%. TSU also helps safety system components work together in cost-effective ways. 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. TSU will work with Oregon Department of Human Services in implementing SB 913, which covers incarcerated offenders receiving or eligible for SSI.

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	Average number of non housing services delivered to offenders annually.	0	0	8,000	8,000
Outcome	Percent of offenders with reach-in services who report within 14 days of prison.	0%	0%	99%	99%
Output		0	0	0	0

Performance Measure - Description

New measures.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

SB 913 covers offenders incarcerated while receiving SSI and released within 12 full calendar months from the date of incarceration. It also covers offenders who have never received SSI but meet the criteria for SSI based on a mental illness or who were incarcerated while receiving SSI but have been incarcerated over one year.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2006	2006	2007	2007
Personnel	\$380,428	\$0	\$352,668	\$0
Contracts	\$39,741	\$0	\$2,241	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$6,356	\$85,444	\$6,276	\$85,444
Internal Services	\$33,697	\$10,978	\$24,144	\$6,407
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$460,222	\$96,422	\$385,329	\$91,851
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$28,174	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$92,849	\$15,224
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$121,023	\$15,224
Total GF/non-GF:	\$460,222	\$96,422	\$506,352	\$107,075
Program Total:	\$556,644		\$613,427	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	4.50	0.00
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$3,922	\$0	\$4,255	\$0
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$96,422	\$0	\$91,851
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$7,922	\$96,422	\$8,255	\$91,851

Explanation of Revenues

This program is funded by county general fund \$385,329 and State Department of Corrections \$91,851.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #50068, Transition Services Unit - Adult Offender Services