

Priority: Basic Needs
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs: 25150A, 25150B

Lead Agency: County Human Services
Program Contact: Mary Li

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Energy Services (ES) ensure that approximately 14,000 fixed and low-income households have access to safe and sufficient energy in their homes. By offering weatherization (WX) repair and replacement to approximately 500 households, and direct utility payments to approximately 13,500 households, energy education, and case management, services help households manage and pay for their energy costs. Services prevent utility shutoff for vulnerable households, and according to a recent State study creates \$1.78 of economic activity within Multnomah County for every one dollar invested in WX. Services are primarily state and federally funded.

Program Description

WX Repair and Replacement provides energy use audits, weatherization, and appliance replacement to fixed and low-income households; services are provided by County staff and vendors. In FY 05-06 over 53,000 households were income eligible for service; of those, 752 households were served.

Energy Payment Assistance works through 9 community agencies to make utility payments for fixed and low-income households. In FY 05-06 over 53,000 households were income eligible for service; 13,181 households were served. Services are part of the SUN Service System (SUNSS), a countywide integrated and coordinated system of care for school-aged youth and their families.

Energy Education helps fixed and low-income households understand their energy use and provides the tools necessary to better control energy expenses. All households receiving services receive education on how to reduce energy costs. Case Management supports self-sufficiency for 40 households annually.

Program Justification

ES is a key component of the County's efforts to meet Basic Living Needs (BLN) Priority: "All Multnomah County residents and their families are able to meet their basic living needs". ES contributes to BLN Indicator: "% of community members not living in poverty" and all BLN Factors by increasing household self-sufficiency and improving local economic conditions through energy conservation. Energy costs disproportionately affect low-income households. Dept of Energy (DOE) estimates low-income households pay an average of 12.6% of their income for energy expenses, compared with 2.7% for the average household. In some fixed income households energy costs can reach as high as 35%. DOE estimates WX households save an average \$274.00 annually in energy costs. ES impacts local economic conditions. While utility payments tend to leave the local economy, household energy savings are likely to be spent on goods and services in local communities. WX directly provides jobs for local contractors and revenue for businesses who supply materials, and indirectly creates another 1.25 jobs in Oregon for every administrative position funded. National research indicates that WX has multiple "non-energy related" benefits, including: affordable housing preservation, regional energy conservation, long-term home improvement, safer housing conditions, and improved physical health. Locally, Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that WX increases household property values, maintains affordable housing, and improves the environment through reduced consumption of fossil fuels.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY05-06)	Current Year Purchased (FY06-07)	Current Year Estimate (FY06-07)	Next Year Offer (FY07-08)
Output	# of households served	13,933	14,152	14,152	14,000
Outcome	% of households w/shutoff notices served that avoid shutoff	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Output	# of affordable housing units maintained for 10 years	280	300	400	350
Output	# of households receiving case management	0	0	10	40

Performance Measure - Description

Weatherization of multi-family buildings requires landlord commitment to a minimum 10 years of affordability. It's one of the best ways to preserve and improve the quality of current affordable housing stock. New state programming is exploring the link between successful self-sufficiency case management and energy assistance. Households receiving case management reflect those participating in services. Future measures will reflect achievement of case plan goals.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2007	2007	2008	2008
Personnel	\$360,919	\$475,818	\$85,753	\$849,893
Contracts	\$20,000	\$1,094,470	\$6,200	\$1,098,510
Materials & Supplies	\$23,989	\$6,551,906	\$29,970	\$6,694,717
Internal Services	\$161,213	\$708,257	\$133,689	\$389,705
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$566,121	\$8,830,451	\$255,612	\$9,032,825
Administration	\$71,766	\$0	\$325,687	\$0
Program Support	\$306,014	\$0	\$308,737	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$377,780	\$0	\$634,424	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$943,901	\$8,830,451	\$890,036	\$9,032,825
Program Total:	\$9,774,352		\$9,922,861	
Program FTE	5.01	5.69	0.94	11.56
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$511,119	\$0	\$176,430	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$8,530,451	\$0	\$8,732,825
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$511,119	\$8,830,451	\$176,430	\$9,032,825

Explanation of Revenues

County General Fund- Based on FY07 current operating levels

Fed/State Fund- Based on current level of funding from grantors, and adjusted for any anticipated changes per communication with grantors. The only significant changes from FY07 to FY08 are as follows:

- 1) Fund 20726 Duke/El Paso grant from Oregon Housing and Community Services (HCS): In mid-FY07, HCS awarded \$52,855 earmarked for a Family Intervention Specialist. HCS has also awarded an additional \$388,411 for FY08 Weatherization projects.
- 2) The Fund 20731 Williams grant from Oregon Housing and Community Services (HCS) was a one-time-only grant for FY07, and will not be renewed in FY08.

Significant Program Changes

✔ Significantly Changed

Last year this program was: #21006, Energy Services

In response to the Auditor's report, a number of programmatic changes have been made in the past fiscal year. Staffing levels have been increased, service prioritization criteria has been determined, and work to build the database capacity needed to implement that criteria has been initiated. This work and other on-going efforts will result in more efficient and effective use of program resources.