

Priority: Vibrant Communities

Lead Agency: Library

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Program Contact: June Mikkelsen

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Adult Outreach Services delivers books and basic library services to adults who cannot come to library buildings or who cannot read or write in English.

Program Description

Adult Outreach delivers library materials and services to Multnomah County residents who are homebound, or who live in nursing homes, retirement centers, adult foster care homes, shelters, transition homes, or jails (the latter in partnership with the Sheriff's Office). Adult Outreach, in partnership with other literacy organizations, also supports people whose first language is not English, or who do not know how to speak, read, or write by providing books, library programs, and other literacy materials. Delivering books, reading to the homebound, leading book discussion groups for seniors, teaching citizenship classes, and tutoring and facilitating English conversation sessions for non-native speakers provide volunteers with meaningful opportunities for community interaction and involvement.

Program Justification

More than 20,000 County residents are 65+ and live alone. Research shows that social isolation can cause depression, disengagement, & loss of community for those homebound, displaced, or simply alone. More than 21,000 inmates are confined each year in County jails. For both older and incarcerated people, a connection to library services provides participation in civic life, culture & social exchange, and ongoing learning opportunities. Adult Outreach connects these people and others in nursing homes, retirement centers, adult foster care homes, shelters, & transition homes with books and other library materials, parenting classes, book discussion groups & other services. For immigrants, refugees, & others who need help with English, Adult Outreach provides books & literacy support. Research shows that literacy is key to a skilled workforce and reduces poverty and homelessness. Adult Outreach staff and volunteers engage marginalized County residents, providing them with learning and recreational opportunities to help them improve and enjoy their lives. This program focuses on strategies #2, 3 & 4, "providing opportunities for neighbors to connect and interact," "promoting literacy and a lifetime of learning" & "providing a variety of cultural and recreational opportunities" to help achieve a vibrant sense of community.

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	Senior group book discussions	120	165	170	180
Outcome	Increased interpersonal and community connections	0.0%	85.0%	85.0%	90.0%
Output	Facilitated English conversation sessions for non-native speakers	90	160	124	150
Output	Senior group residential centers served*	30	29	35	50

Performance Measure - Description

Increased interpersonal and community connections (new measure in 07)--The percentage of participants in the Adult Outreach Services' public program areas (senior book talks, facilitated English conversation sessions, citizenship classes) who report an increased feeling of connection with others as a result of these programs. Data gathered twice each year through surveys.

*We anticipate being able to increase the number of residential centers served without an increase in staff because of a streamlined approach to putting together collections of books for the centers. We are using the extra staff time to expand the number of adult foster homes we serve.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Measure No. 26-81 "Renew Five-Year Local Option Levy to Continue Library Services", November 2006 General Election – The levy language reads: "Continue programs for school age children, story hours for babies and toddlers, summer reading, literacy services for children in child care, programs for teens; Help teachers and students use library resources; provide homework helpers to assist children with school work; Maintain free access to information; Update books and materials; Continue books delivery to homebound seniors and nursing home residents; Open planned libraries in underserved neighborhoods of East County and North Portland: Keep libraries open; maintain current hours and services at Central and neighborhood libraries."

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2007	2007	2008	2008
Personnel	\$165,909	\$387,125	\$167,634	\$391,147
Materials & Supplies	\$2,712	\$6,328	\$2,730	\$6,370
Internal Services	\$7,078	\$16,516	\$7,531	\$17,570
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$175,699	\$409,969	\$177,895	\$415,087
Administration	\$17,786	\$31,620	\$15,151	\$35,352
Program Support	\$16,521	\$29,371	\$14,566	\$33,988
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$34,307	\$60,991	\$29,717	\$69,340
Total GF/non-GF:	\$210,006	\$470,960	\$207,612	\$484,427
Program Total:	\$680,966		\$692,039	
Program FTE	2.75	5.00	2.25	5.50
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$2,518	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$207,612	\$484,427
Total Revenue:	\$2,518	\$0	\$207,612	\$484,427

Explanation of Revenues

The Admin revenue allocated to this program offer represents a pro-rated share of Library Levy taxes (65%) and library-generated revenues such as overdue fines, interest earnings, and user charges for services provided to Library patrons (5%). General Fund revenue represents about 30% of the Library's total revenue. This offer receives \$35,000 from the Inmate Welfare Fund for library services in jails.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #80007A, Adult Outreach-Current Service Level
No significant programmatic changes.