

Priority: Basic Needs
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs: 25094A, 25098, 50035
Program Characteristics: Measure 5 Education

Lead Agency: Community Justice
Program Contact: Janice Ashe

Executive Summary

Family Court Services (FCS) helps keep children safe, parents healthy and families stable through services to approximately 1,000 high-risk families as they go through separation and divorce and/or dependency proceedings. Through parent education, mediation, evaluation, prompt drug abuse intervention and other services, FCS promotes effective coordination of child welfare services, treatment for addiction and/or family violence and criminal justice and court services to high-risk families involved with the Family Court.

Program Description

FCS provides parent education, mediation and evaluation services to vulnerable families experiencing the major life crisis of separation or divorce. Research supports that decreasing parental conflict during separation creates protective factors for children, decreases future Family Court litigation and increases children’s meaningful contact with both parents.

The Family Involvement Team (FIT) component of FCS assists parents who are facing child neglect charges because of drug abuse problems. FIT provides them with rapid access to treatment services. This expedited access to treatment vastly improves treatment outcomes. Nationally it takes 226 days for a parent to start treatment. In Oregon the average is 111 days. In Multnomah County that average is 32 days thanks to FCS (FIT Program) efforts.

FIT also identifies parents on probation or parole that have abuse and neglect proceedings pending and works with DCJ’s Adult Family Services Unit (FSU) to ensure that services are coordinated. This strengthens the abilities of the Court and the State Department of Human Services (DHS) to protect vulnerable children.

Program Justification

Exposure to parental conflict and the potential loss of a parent through divorce and separation places children at risk for delinquency, teen pregnancy and poor school performance. 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.

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.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY06-07)	Current Year Purchased (FY07-08)	Current Year Estimate (FY07-08)	Next Year Offer (FY08-09)
Output	Number of families served by FCS	1,020	1,200	1,200	1,200
Outcome	Percent of client satisfaction with Parent Education	90.0%	80.0%	92.0%	90.0%
Output	Number of families served by Parent Education	2,146	0	2,100	2,100
Outcome	Average # of days for FIT clients to enter treatment	17	0	30	20

Performance Measure - Description

✔ **Measure Changed**

FCS experienced a slight decrease in mediation cases this year, decreasing the overall number of families served. FIT clients entered treatment on average within 32 days, far below the national average and the state average of 111 days. Due to issues of community treatment capacity fewer clients entered treatment within the 17 day target. The number served by Parent Education is new this year and the average number of days for FIT clients to enter treatment has been revised.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Programming provided by Family Court Services is mandated by Federal Legislation - American Safe Families Act; Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 3.220, 21.112. 3.425, 417.355, 419B.387 and 419B.806.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2008	2008	2009	2009
Personnel	\$295,883	\$766,670	\$91,726	\$899,959
Contracts	\$10,000	\$47,710	\$10,000	\$54,710
Materials & Supplies	\$2,440	\$29,228	\$1,780	\$114,376
Internal Services	\$0	\$108,502	\$0	\$150,436
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$308,323	\$952,110	\$103,506	\$1,219,481
Administration	\$84,434	\$20,633	\$76,953	\$23,260
Program Support	\$232,802	\$0	\$243,869	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$317,236	\$20,633	\$320,822	\$23,260
Total GF/non-GF:	\$625,559	\$972,743	\$424,328	\$1,242,741
Program Total:	\$1,598,302		\$1,667,069	
Program FTE	4.00	8.60	1.21	9.69
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$24,370	\$0	\$60,520	\$0
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$0	\$952,110	\$0	\$973,685
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$59,214
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$186,582
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$24,370	\$952,110	\$60,520	\$1,219,481

Explanation of Revenues

The FIT and the Family Supervision Unit are supported by County General Fund revenue \$103,506; Childrens Bureau grant through DCHS \$59,214; Family Court Services(FCS) revenue \$1,160,267. FCS revenue comes from a surcharge on filing fees for divorce and custody cases, fees for parent education and evaluation services, and a portion of the marriage license fee dedicated to conciliation services.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #50009, Family Court Services