

Priority: Basic Needs **Lead Agency:** County Human Services
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating **Program Contact:** Mary Li
Related Programs: 25133A, 25140
Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

Bridges to Housing (B2H) is a regional program involving Washington, Clackamas, Multnomah, and Clark counties providing supportive housing opportunities for high resource using homeless families. It is a key component of the Multnomah County-City of Portland 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. B2H addresses the cycle of multi-generational homelessness. This innovative project demonstrates the positive impact of supportive housing in assisting 95 high-need homeless families in FY 07-08 to overcome substantial barriers to success and raise children in a stable family setting. 70% of families served remain in permanent housing after two years.

Program Description

B2H provides two years of intensive case management, childcare subsidies, wraparound funds, and access to services such as mental health and substance abuse treatment for adults and children in low income, high resource using homeless families. Typically these families face multiple barriers and disability, interacting with several service systems at the same time. Families are placed into Section 8 permanent affordable housing or other subsidized housing. Program funds pay for supportive services. Intensive services are strengths-based, designed to help the family maintain their housing, and give them the tools and service connections to allow them to remain in stable housing at the end of the two years of support services. Over the 10 year period of the program, 900 families will be housed across the four county region.

B2H represents a commitment to achieve significant outcomes through realignment of homeless family housing and services in the four-county metropolitan area. Governments and service providers have joined together, along with cities and housing authorities, to develop and implement B2H. This is a significant step forward in building a regional framework, and implementing best practices.

As a result of this regional work, significant additional resources - approximately \$20 million - have been or will be leveraged, including funds from the Gates Foundation and the Children's Investment Fund.

Program Justification

B2H meets the Basic Living Needs (BLN) priority area goals in its holistic approach focused on coordinated service addressing multiple and complex needs of families. B2H is based in the idea of "transition to self-sufficiency". B2H meets the BLN priorities to provide intervention & coordination of services, assure care for vulnerable members of the community, and promote healthy behaviors. B2H builds infrastructure to support provision of basic living needs services and assist people to obtain permanent, affordable, & livable housing.

PSU Regional Research Institute identifies that more than 80% of enrolled B2H families are single female parent households. 66% of individuals served are under the age of 18, average age of children - seven years. 89% of household heads reported at least one special need or disability while many reported more than one. 67% struggle with mental illness, 42% with drug abuse. On average, B2H families experienced two episodes of homelessness in the two years prior to enrollment. The longest continuous episode of homelessness in those last two years has typically been 10 months. Families also reported an average of two changes in childcare or education settings in the last two years because of housing instability.

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	High resource using homeless families served over two years	45	36	95	124
Outcome	% of families served that remain in permanent housing six months after exit	70.0%	70.0%	70.0%	70.0%

Performance Measure - Description

Legal/Contractual Obligation**Revenue/Expense Detail**

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2008	2008	2009	2009
Contracts	\$731,308	\$0	\$704,543	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$731,308	\$0	\$704,543	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$731,308	\$0	\$704,543	\$0
Program Total:	\$731,308		\$704,543	
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

County General Fund - 100%

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #25114, Bridges to Housing