

Priority: Vibrant Communities **Lead Agency:** County Human Services
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program **Program Contact:** Mary Li
Related Programs: 25150

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Working Families Prosperity Alliance (WFPA) will be a joint project with the City of Portland, Worksystems, Inc., the Housing Authority of Portland (HAP), and non-profit providers. This pilot project will provide access to targeted resources for 300 “working poor” families with children 0-12 with the goal of increasing the income and assets of households as they connect to industries and occupations that will provide a pathway to a living wage. The goal of WFPA will be to test common assumptions regarding service and systems alignment and the possibility of increased outcome achievement for potential systems-wide implementation in the next five-eight years.

Program Description

WFPA will provide services to families who either need additional work skills to increase wages or need help finding a living wage job, along with the supports necessary for employment success. Families just above 100% of Federal Poverty will be targeted. An assertive engagement approach will provide base support for families to work through barriers and access multiple service systems. Participants will be currently receiving anti-poverty and other SUNSS services.

The County will provide in-kind case management, in-kind early childhood & parenting education, and new funding for childcare subsidy and/or Individual Development Accounts (IDA). The City of Portland will provide funding for Worksystems, Inc. to work county-wide providing the range of employment services needed – skill development, career planning, training, job search & placement, and retention. HAP will provide access to Section 8 or other types of public housing subsidy. The pilot project is designed: 1) to respond to crucial resource-gaps identified by families 2) to leverage and layer supports to enhance successful outcomes; and 3) to work across systems with the prospect for long term system alignment based upon “lessons learned” in this pilot.

Program Justification

Working poor families maintain regular employment but remain in relative poverty due to low levels of pay and dependent expenses. For purposes of this pilot, the working poor are defined as individuals who spent at least 27 weeks in the labor force (working or looking for work), but whose incomes fall between 100% and 200% of the Federal poverty level (i.e between 33% and 66% of Portland’s median family income). The working poor are distinct from those who have the same income level due to public assistance through TANF or SSI. In Multnomah County, 21% of families fit this definition of working poor.

Expected outcomes will include: Increased family income and assets - by 25%; Increased soft employment skills for participants – evidenced by job retention; Increased transferable hard employment skills; Increased family financial security and financial skills (banking, budgeting); Decreased barriers to success - evictions, criminal record, debt, etc...; and, Increased family stability both in income and support services.

The project will use the Prosperity Planner as the customer-based, cross-system evaluation tool.

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	# of families to participate in pilot program	0	0	0	300
Outcome	% of households served that increase earned income at exit	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	60.0%

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	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$62,683	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$50,302	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$112,985	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$0	\$612,985	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$612,985	
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 requested

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: