

Priority: Education **Lead Agency:** County Human Services
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski
Related Programs: 25119, 25143, 25145A, 25149, 25150, 25151, 25155

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Touchstone (TS) is a school-based case management and service linkage program serving families in the SUN Service System, a Countywide integrated and coordinated system of care. TS is the access point and conduit to a full array of social support services and resources for families. Touchstone staff are sited at 11 schools within 6 school districts in Multnomah County. In FY08 the program forged a strong relationship with two important partners: City of Portland's School-Family-Housing Initiative and Oregon Department of Human Services.

Program Description

Touchstone is a voluntary school-based youth focused program with the mission to increase school success and minimize barriers to learning for children who are not succeeding in school. The population is highly diverse, resource challenged, and highly mobile. Last year, 61% were from communities of color, 78% qualified for Free and Reduced Lunch, and 53% came from single, female-headed households. The program delivers a solution-focused, research-based model, utilizing the 'Skilled Helper' approach to quickly engage families, assess their strengths and needs and provide and/or connect them to resources. Each Touchstone worker, or Family Intervention Specialist (FIS) serves 65 families per year; 715 families will participate in in FY08. The students served by TS, have increased their academic benchmarks and improved their attendance rates.

The service model designed places Touchstone workers full-time in eleven SUN Community School sites for 10 months of the year, in order to improve alignment of services, coordination, visibility, consistency, and communication. This design capitalizes on the relationship built at a school building; each FTE is assigned one school site. Last year staff were split between two sites.

Program Justification

Touchstone provides core & fundamental case management, social and support services that keep kids engaged in school and families stable. This is a unique and dedicated school based capacity that is not duplicated elsewhere in the SUNSS. The SUNSS Coordinating Council strongly recommends this school based model as "ideal".

A majority of families served are poor children and families of color. The program creates systems of support that impact poverty and increase academic success. In this past year, 75% of students served increased state benchmarks in reading, 64% increased state benchmarks in math, and 67% of students attended 92% or more of the time (92% attendance rate is Annual Yearly Progress as defined by No Child Left Behind).

In addition, the commitment of resource support by the system partners is a clear demonstration of their support for Touchstone's mission and for the broader SUN Service System collaboration. Mobility and unstable housing have been associated with a decline in academic success. In FY08, through the School-Family-Housing partnership with the City of Portland BHCD, TS will serve over 75 families resulting in reduced mobility, an increase in family stability and increase student success by providing rental and housing benefits to retain families in their neighborhood school.

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 served by case management	661	715	715	715
Outcome	% who improve state test scores in reading	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%

Performance Measure - Description

Current year estimates based on 65 families per year per FTE.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2008	2008	2009	2009
Personnel	\$578,412	\$350,000	\$569,493	\$350,000
Contracts	\$112	\$0	\$800	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$85,934	\$0	\$67,033	\$0
Internal Services	\$101,231	\$0	\$99,631	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$765,689	\$350,000	\$736,957	\$350,000
Administration	\$31,614	\$0	\$100,889	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$37,118	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$31,614	\$0	\$138,007	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$797,303	\$350,000	\$874,964	\$350,000
Program Total:	\$1,147,303		\$1,224,964	
Program FTE	6.31	3.82	6.16	3.97
Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000

Explanation of Revenues

City of Portland - \$80,000
 Gresham Barlow School District - \$70,000
 Portland Public Schools - \$200,000
 County General Fund - \$736,957

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #25146, SUN Service System: Touchstone (Alternative)

This program is changed in FY08. Touchstone staff are sited in only one school this fiscal year. In the past 3 years staff have been split between two sites.