

**Priority:** Basic Needs

**Lead Agency:** County Human Services

**Program Offer Type:** Program Alternative /

**Program Contact:** Mary Li

**Related Programs:** 25115A, 25133, 25140

**Program Characteristics:**

**Executive Summary**

Bridges to Housing (B2H) provides 40 high resource using homeless families with intensive case management, permanently affordable housing and childcare resources. High resource using homeless families have no permanent place to live, have at least one child under the age of eighteen, use a large amount of county-funded services, interact with several service systems at the same time and have serious barriers that cause them to be excluded from housing. The 125 B2H housing units all have been developed with funding from the city of Portland and State of Oregon, and have permanent rent assistance provided by the Housing Authority of Portland. County funds provide support services to families living in these units. B2H will help at least 70% (28) of families served maintain their housing, thus reducing their reliance on county services.

**Program Description**

B2H was developed to solve a problem facing a challenging group of homeless families served in our county. While most homeless families experience homelessness due to short-term economic reasons, a subset of families have such serious problems that they cannot be housed without permanent rent assistance and a period of intense services. B2H case managers work with no more than fifteen families at a time to move them into a B2H housing unit, prevent them from losing their housing, prevent the children from being removed and help them obtain the services needed to attain their goals. County funds will continue services to the 40 B2H families currently in housing. County funds leverage funds from city of Portland and state of Oregon to build and maintain the housing, \$6,000 per family per year in rent assistance funds, \$4,500 per family per year in childcare funds and \$558,000 to date in matching funds from private foundations.

**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. A typical B2H family is a single mother with one or more children, often fleeing domestic violence, fighting with mental health or addictions issues, and struggling to provide for the basic needs of her child(ren). Most B2H families have poor rental histories, very low income, minor criminal convictions and bad credit, making it impossible for them to lease apartments without B2H. While B2H families use services from multiple county systems, their inability to access housing causes those services to be ineffective and poorly coordinated. B2H provides housing units to this very difficult to house population, and case managers coordinate services across service systems, increasing their efficiency and effectiveness. B2H families are expected to become successful renters, be less likely to have their children removed and placed in foster care, more likely to have their children succeed in school, less likely to have episodes of domestic violence, and less likely to be involved in the criminal justice system.

**Performance Measures**

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY07-08)	Current Year Purchased (FY08-09)	Current Year Estimate (FY08-09)	Next Year Offer (FY09-10)
Output	High resource using homeless families served over two years	95	110	125	40
Outcome	% of families served that remain in permanent housing six months after exit <sup>1</sup>	70.0%	70.0%	70.0%	70.0%

**Performance Measure - Description**

<sup>1</sup> Permanent housing is long-term community-based housing where an individual can stay without time limit.

## Legal/Contractual Obligation

## Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2009	2009	2010	2010
<b>Program Expenses</b>				
Contracts	\$704,543	\$0	\$234,820	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	<b>\$704,543</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$234,820</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Total GF/non-GF:	<b>\$704,543</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$234,820</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Program Total:	<b>\$704,543</b>		<b>\$234,820</b>	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Program Revenues</b>				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## Explanation of Revenues

County General Fund - \$234,820

## Significant Program Changes

✔ Significantly Changed

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

In FY09 the Bridges to Housing program offer was funded with one time only funding.

If funded in FY10, services will transition from initial pilot program purchased with one-time-only resources to on-going capacity of 40 family units dedicated to high resource using homeless families who are otherwise unable to access safe, stable housing.

See Program Offer 25114B.