

Priority: Education **Lead Agency:** County Human Services
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski
Related Programs: 25139, 25143, 25144, 25145A, 25146A, 25149, 25151, 25153, 25154, 25146B, 25145B

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

This program offers counseling, skill building and support services to over 300 sexual minority youth (SMY). Its impact is enhanced through technical assistance and training to approximately 400 SUN Service System, school and other direct service staff to work effectively with sexual minority youth. The program increases school retention and success; last year 79% of youth served re-enrolled or remained in school. About 98% of training participants reported an increased knowledge of SMY issues and competency in serving these youth. SMY is part of the SUN Service System, a countywide integrated and coordinated system of care for school-aged youth and their families.

Program Description

The Services for the Sexual Minority Youth program provides community-based services specifically designed to meet the needs of SMY youth and their families so that youth remain in and/or return to school. Direct services to SMY include counseling services, leadership development and support groups. The program provides operational support for the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center so that SMY youth have a supportive environment for socialization and peer support. These direct services comprise 70% of program funding. Technical assistance, training and support to SUN Service System staff, schools and partners increases the awareness of the issues that SMY youth face, and increases competency in working with SMY youth. This is the only county-funded program focused on Sexual Minority Youth.

Program Justification

This program supports the Education priority. The program utilizes a two pronged approach:1) providing direct services and a safe place in which SMY youth can feel comfortable and participate in supportive services that reflect their unique needs and 2) enhancing the understanding and skill levels of community providers to provide competent and relevant services to SMY youth. Due to difficulties with family, peers and the broader community, SMY youth often experience isolation and stigmatization, resulting in higher rates of emotional distress, homelessness, school drop outs, suicide attempts, risky sexual behavior and substance abuse. About 72% of youth served last year by the SMY program reported a reduction in risky behaviors. Research has found a direct link between academic performance and experiences of harassment and unsafe learning environments. The 2005 "From Teasing to Torment: School Climate in America Survey" conducted by the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN) found that 90% of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) students report verbal harassment at school. About 66% reported feeling unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation. A Seattle study found that 28% of SMY youth dropped out of school. The direct service components provide support for SMY youth outside of school, so that they will remain in or re-enroll in school.

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	# served in counseling and Resource Center Services	295	300	300	300
Outcome	% of resource center youth who re-enroll or remain in school ¹	79.0%	60.0%	60.0%	60.0%
Outcome	% of training participants who increase knowledge about sexual minority issues ¹	98.0%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%

Performance Measure - Description

¹ Performance trends are reviewed over a several year period to determine if changes in targets are needed. This year, we did not increase the target for % of youth who re-enroll or remain in school. This will be reassessed in FY10 based on performance trends.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2009	2009	2010	2010
Program Expenses				
Personnel	\$7,362	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contracts	\$104,843	\$0	\$104,843	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$201	\$0	\$0	\$0
Internal Services	\$941	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$113,347	\$0	\$104,843	\$0
Administration	\$15,024	\$0	\$16,985	\$0
Program Support	\$5,527	\$0	\$4,842	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$20,551	\$0	\$21,827	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$133,898	\$0	\$126,670	\$0
Program Total:	\$133,898		\$126,670	
Program FTE	0.08	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 - \$104,843

Significant Program Changes

✔ Significantly Changed

Last year this program was: #25155, Services for Sexual Minority Youth