

Priority: Safety
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Lead Agency: Community Justice
Program Contact: Bill Penny

Executive Summary

By assessing a defendant's potential to appear for court hearings and/or reoffend if released from custody, the Adult Recognizance (Recog) unit performs functions critical to the effective operation of the local justice system. The defendants determined to be most likely to appear for court hearings and a low risk to reoffend are released. This process results in maintaining jail bed availability for higher risk defendants. Eight out of 10 defendants released by Recog returned for their scheduled court appearance during the first 6 months of FY 2009. A recent study designed to measure the success of Recog's risk assessment tool for the system stakeholders found, "The Recog instrument currently provides sound guidance about which defendants can be safely released on their own recognizance. Any recommended modifications to the instrument are designed to improve upon these already encouraging results" (Dedel, 2008).

Program Description

The Recog unit is a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week program housed in the jail. Recog staff interview all defendants with a pending Multnomah County charge. Defendants charged with felonies and/or person-to-person misdemeanor crimes are subject to a full criminal history and warrant check in addition to a risk screening. This process takes approximately one hour per defendant and provides a comprehensive, objective and valid system for release decisions which prioritizes victim and community safety in addition to the defendant's flight risk. The screening tool used to guide Recog staff to a release decision has been validated via an independent research group. The results of that study have been approved by the Community Justice Advisory Council.

Program Justification

The Recog program provides public safety by administering an objective and valid process from which jail release decisions are made. By administering this process, the Recog program allows lower risk defendants the ability to maintain established living components such as employment and housing. Additionally, Recog serves as a 24-hour link between local law enforcement agencies and Parole/Probation Officers by coordinating the process of holding parole and probation violators in jail and giving after-hours information on the high risk individuals who are on electronic monitoring.

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	Number of release decisions conducted annually.	15,537	23,000	15,000	16,000
Outcome	Percent of interviewed defendants released on own recog who return to court.	80.0%	75.0%	80.0%	84.0%

Performance Measure - Description

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2009	2009	2010	2010
Personnel	\$1,254,740	\$0	\$1,114,661	\$0
Contracts	\$330	\$0	\$330	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$18,573	\$0	\$12,761	\$0
Internal Services	\$0	\$0	\$30	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$1,273,643	\$0	\$1,127,782	\$0
Administration	\$68,497	\$0	\$54,099	\$0
Program Support	\$173,404	\$36,432	\$171,200	\$33,424
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$241,901	\$36,432	\$225,299	\$33,424
Total GF/non-GF:	\$1,515,544	\$36,432	\$1,353,081	\$33,424
Program Total:	\$1,551,976		\$1,386,505	
Program FTE	14.60	0.00	12.80	0.00
Program Revenues				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

County General Fund

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #50026, Adult Recog Program

This program offer cuts 1.80 FTE Probation/Parole Officers from the FY 2009 current service level.