

Lead Agency: County Human Services

Program Contact: Chiquita Rollins

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs: 25040A

Program Characteristics: Backfill State/Federal/Grant

Executive Summary

This program offer will fund continuation of the Safe Start Program, which provides collaborative domestic violence (DV) victim services to families involved with Child Welfare. Two contracted victim advocates and one contracted parent-child specialist provide ongoing consultation to Gresham Child Welfare staff and direct services to 100 families each year. The program reduces foster care placement.

Program Description

The Safe Start Project's goal is to address the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment, and reduce the harmful effects of domestic violence on children. Research has shown there is a significant overlap between domestic violence and child maltreatment, with 40-60% of families experiencing domestic violence also experiencing child maltreatment. In Oregon, domestic violence is the second most common reason for referral to Child Welfare and a known risk factor in 1/3 of founded child maltreatment cases. For children, the combined impact of child maltreatment and exposure to domestic violence is greater than the impact of either one alone. These impacts include direct and indirect injuries, as well as physical, mental health, cognitive, developmental, behavioral and academic problems caused by trauma and exposure to violence.

- 15% of all Oregon children lived in homes where DV occurred in the previous year;
- children witness 1/3 of Oregon homicides and were killed in 8% of these incidents.
- Half of all domestic violence victims with children will have contact with child protective services during the abusive relationship.

The Safe Start Program addresses this high-risk population by providing collaborative domestic violence services in the Gresham Child Welfare (CW) Office. Two DV victim advocates (including a bilingual, bi-cultural advocate) and a masters-level parent-child specialist provide direct services to victims as well as provide general and case-specific consultation on domestic violence to Child Welfare staff. Advocates' services include crisis intervention, safety planning and ongoing assistance with basic needs, restraining orders and criminal justice interventions, support groups and other services. This grant will end 9/30/10.

Child welfare staff in Gresham report that fewer children are placed in foster homes, that they are able to close cases involving DV more quickly, and that they have greater competence and skills in working with victims of DV. In addition, in 2009, the Gresham office had the lowest percentage of children in foster care of any of the Multnomah County child welfare branches.

This offer responds to the 2000 LPSCC evaluation of the criminal justice system which recommended development of a more intensive response to high risk DV cases; the victim services system plan, adopted by the Board; and County Resolution 00-149 DV), which directs the county to "develop effective and integrated responses to domestic violence."

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY08-09)	Current Year Purchased (FY09-10)	Current Year Estimate (FY09-10)	Next Year Offer (FY10-11)
Output	Total families served ¹	0	0	0	100
Outcome	Victims will report increased safety ²	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	75.0%

Performance Measure - Description

¹ Families will receive ongoing advocacy or parent-child services.

² Victims receiving direct services will report increased safety (or feeling that the services helped them, or feeling that services helped with their child welfare case)

Legal/Contractual Obligation

N/A

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2010	2010	2011	2011
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$149,524	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$13,500	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$0	\$163,024	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$163,024	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Funded with \$163,024 of one-time-only general funds.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #25040, Domestic Violence Victims Services and Coordination

The current Department of Justice Safe Start grant included in base program offer 25040A – Domestic Violence Victims Services & Coordination expires in September 2010 and is not renewable.