

Lead Agency: County Human Services
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs: 25114B

Program Contact: Mary Li

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Bridges to Housing would help at least 70% of families served (28) maintain their housing six months after exit, thus reducing their reliance on County services.

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 18, 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 139 Bridges to Housing units all were 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.

Program Description

Bridges to Housing (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 serve 40 B2H families currently in housing, and 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 \$958,000 to date in matching funds from private foundations. B2H uses a 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 (FY08-09) | Current Year Purchased (FY09-10) | Current Year Estimate (FY09-10) | Next Year Offer (FY10-11) |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Output | Number of high resource using homeless families served over 2 years ¹ | 124 | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| Outcome | % of families served that remain in permanent housing 6 months after exit ² | 0.0% | 70.0% | 70.0% | 70.0% |

Performance Measure - Description

¹ The way that we have calculated the number of families served has changed- for the purpose of the program offer, the number of households served has been adjusted to reflect just those funded by the offer. We have 139 total units, this offer will support 40 of those units.

²Permanent housing is long-term community-based housing, with attached appropriate support services 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 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Program Expenses | 2010 | 2010 | 2011 | 2011 |
| Contracts | \$234,820 | \$0 | \$239,516 | \$0 |
| Total GF/non-GF: | \$234,820 | \$0 | \$239,516 | \$0 |
| Program Total: | \$234,820 | | \$239,516 | |
| Program FTE | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Program Revenues | | | | |
| Total Revenue: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Explanation of Revenues

\$239,516 - County General Fund

Significant Program Changes

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

There are no significant changes to this program offer.

This program offer includes a 2% inflationary increase of \$ 4,696 over FY10 for the County General Fund portion of contracted client services.