

Lead Agency: County Human Services
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program
Related Programs: 25114A

Program Contact: Mary Li

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

This offer funds an additional 40 high resource using homeless families currently receiving services through Bridges to Housing (B2H). County funds will provide the full package of B2H support services - intensive case management, permanently affordable housing, and childcare resources to 80 of a total 139 households currently enrolled. Services are provided for the balance of households through on-going utilization of initial funding, leverage of City of Portland funds, and the B2H Collaboration fundraising efforts.

This is the second of three anticipated requests to build permanent, on-going funding for B2H following the initial, one-time-only investment of \$1 million dollars of County General Funds (CGF).

The total 139 B2H 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. Loss of these units to a less challenged population will represent a significant negative impact to the City of Portland/County 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness efforts, for homeless families.

At least 70% (28) of families served will maintain their housing, thus reducing their reliance on County services.

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.

The County made an initial investment of one-time-only funds to develop and implement the original program. Having achieved documented success with a very challenging population, the work to build permanent funding and on-going funding is necessary in order to not lose precious family size units to households less challenged than current B2H families.

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 children. Most B2H families have poor rental histories, very low income, minor criminal convictions and bad credit. These are families who would be unable to be housed through any other means, leaving them at the mercy of predatory landlords, doubled up and migratory, or in their cars or camping - with resultant negative impacts to both adults and their children.

\$958,000 to date in matching funds has been raised for the four County collaborative project. The County's share of these funds continues to play an important role in overall program funding, but is inadequate to meet the need of all 139 units once initial funds have been exhausted.

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	High resource using homeless families served over two years	0	0	0	40
Outcome	% of families served that remain in permanent housing six months after exit ¹	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	70.0%

Performance Measure - Description

Permanent 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	\$0	\$0	\$228,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$0	\$228,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$228,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Funded with \$228,000 of one-time-only general funds.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: