

Lead Agency: County Human Services

Program Contact: Mary Li

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Homeless Benefits Recovery Project (HBR) utilizes a proven program model to assist 120 chronically homeless individuals with mental illness, addictions and disabilities in accessing federal benefits, such as Social Security Disability Insurance (SSI/SSDI), and services to which they are entitled but have been unable to receive because their disabilities prevent them from successful navigation of the appeals system. Locally, only 11% of those eligible receive benefits.

HBR is a tested, evidence based program that anticipates a 50-70% success rate in gaining benefits for eligible individuals.

Program Description

Homeless Benefits Recovery (HBR) provides benefits eligibility determination, systems advocacy and short-term case management to approximately 120 individuals annually who are Multnomah Treatment Fund eligible. The Multnomah Treatment Fund is a County General Fund (CGF) program serving a limited number of individuals with mental illness without insurance or benefits.

HBR services include: eligibility screening, appeals process advocacy, case management, and medical and other documentation to individuals evaluated to be potentially eligible while the appeals process continues. In the first year of service, approximately 90 Multnomah Treatment Fund eligible clients will be served.

Studies estimate that as many as 60% of those living on the streets are living with disabilities. Often, the nature of those disabilities makes it impossible for an individual to successfully complete the benefits eligibility process. Nationally, 60% of all applications for assistance are denied at first request. The average wait time between first application and receiving assistance is 30 months. Without those benefits, individuals are either without services and utilizing expensive, locally funded safety net services – jail, hospital/medical care, other safety net services – or have their treatment paid for with scarce local community (non-federal) funds. Providing this unreimbursed care creates significant impact on the County's General Fund.

HBR provides intervention and coordination of services, and assures care for vulnerable members of the community. HBR targets those who would potentially not be on the County's caseload if they had access to the benefits for which they are eligible, or those currently on the County's caseload and whose cost of care is not reimbursed. Local estimates identify 39% of the chronic homeless population is eligible for SSI/SSDI as a result of mental illness and 46% eligible as a result of their physical health. Benefit recovery efforts are a key strategy of the local 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

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	# of chronic homeless individuals with disabilities served ¹	0	120	60	120
Outcome	% of individuals served who receive benefits	0.0%	0.0%	40.0%	50.0%

Performance Measure - Description

¹ Services began January 2010.

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	\$393,397	\$0	\$401,265	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$393,397	\$0	\$401,265	\$0
Program Total:	\$393,397		\$401,265	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

\$401,265 - County General Fund

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #25115A, Homeless Benefits Recovery Pilot Project

There are no significant changes to this program offer.

This program offer includes a 2% inflationary increase of \$ 7,868 over FY10 for the County General Fund portion of contracted client services.