

Lead Agency: Community Justice

Program Contact: Bill Penny

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

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.

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 Probation and Parole Officers (PPO) 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 (FY08-09)	Current Year Purchased (FY09-10)	Current Year Estimate (FY09-10)	Next Year Offer (FY10-11)
Output	Number of recog releases annually	17,122	16,000	18,000	18,000
Outcome	Percent of interviewed defendants who return to court	80.0%	84.0%	89.0%	89.0%

Performance Measure - Description

Legal/Contractual Obligation**Revenue/Expense Detail**

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2010	2010	2011	2011
Personnel	\$1,069,173	\$0	\$1,407,580	\$0
Contracts	\$330	\$0	\$378	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$12,761	\$0	\$13,411	\$0
Internal Services	\$30	\$0	\$6,672	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$1,082,294	\$0	\$1,428,041	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,082,294		\$1,428,041	
Program FTE	12.80	0.00	15.80	0.00
Program Revenues				
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

County General Fund

Significant Program Changes**Last year this program was: #50024, DCJ Adult Recog Program**

This program offer adds a 1.00 FTE Probation and Parole Officer position to the FY 2010 current service level. This position was restored after the FY 2010 budget was adopted per the union cost of living freeze. For fiscal year 2011, two positions have been transferred here from Pretrial Supervision Program (program offer 50026) and Electronic Monitoring (program offer 50043).