

Lead Agency: County Human Services

Program Contact: Chiquita Rollins

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics: Backfill State/Federal/Grant

Executive Summary

Safe Start Collaboration program offer provides three months of domestic violence (DV) victim services to families involved with Child Welfare. For FY11, the Board allocated nine months of contracted services and backfill the federal grant which ended 9/30/10. Safe Start provides consultation to Gresham Child Welfare staff, direct services to 100 families each year, and reduces foster care placement.

Program Description

Safe Start is well-established and respected at the local, state and federal level. Its national stature led to the county receiving the prestigious Defending Childhood Initiative grant.

Safe Start'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 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. With the grant ending on 9/30/10, the Board funded 9 months of services. Funding for these 9 months of services is included in 25040A. This offer requests funding for the remaining 3 months of FY12.

Gresham child welfare staff 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 (FY09-10)	Current Year Purchased (FY10-11)	Current Year Estimate (FY10-11)	Next Year Offer (FY11-12)
Output	Total families served ¹	0	0	30	30
Outcome	Victims will report increased safety ²	0.0%	0.0%	75.0%	75.0%

Performance Measure - Description

¹ Families will receive ongoing advocacy or parent-child services. This represents new clients for the last quarter of the year.

² Victims will report increased safety

Legal/Contractual Obligation

N/A

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2011	2011	2012	2012
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$41,533	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$2,550	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$0	\$44,083	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$44,083	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

\$44,083 – County General Fund

Significant Program Changes**Last year this program was:** #25040C, Domestic Violence Safe Start Collaboration

This offer backfills funds lost through the end of the federal Safe Start Collaboration. This grant ended 9/30/10.