

Lead Agency: County Human Services

Program Contact: Mohammad Bader

Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics: Out of Target

Executive Summary

The Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) is a national best practice multi-disciplinary team, whose purpose is to protect vulnerable adults and to investigate financial abuse/exploitation perpetrated against seniors and people with disabilities. The primary goal of the team is to preserve clients' assets and well being and to hold offenders accountable. This new offer adds a FAST coordinator and purchases the contracted professional services of a forensic neuropsychologist, a forensic nurse, and a forensic accountant, in order to increase the probability of criminal prosecution and/or to recoup victims' lost property or funds.

Program Description

The crime of financial exploitation is growing in Multnomah County. Adult Protective Services (APS) investigated 655 cases of financial abuse against seniors and people with disabilities in FY10. This program will provide forensic evidence to prosecute or substantiate abuse. These crimes involve inducing seniors to give their assets to strangers, caregivers or family members. Legally, this is referred to as "undue influence". To prove that undue influence was committed and a crime has occurred, APS investigators work along side law enforcement to show evidence that the victim has cognitive deficits. A team of forensic experts will evaluate the victim to determine if a crime has occurred and if there is a need for guardianship or conservatorship to safeguard the victim and his /her assets. Financial abuse seldom occurs in isolation and is often coupled with other forms of abuse such as physical abuse, abandonment, neglect, verbal abuse or sexual abuse. The forensic nurse will assess medical evidence associated with abuse. With the cooperation of various law enforcement agencies and the DA, the forensic team was able to recoup \$900,000 for FY 10, and several perpetrators ended spending time in jail. This program is showing a huge success in improving the rate of prosecution. A sample caseload from 2009 to current date shows that the DA ordered \$2,234,801 in restitution, and perpetrators spent 1,326 months in prison. Prosecuting cases of financial abuse is a complex task. Many of these cases take a long time to prosecute and require a huge coordination among various entities.

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	Financial Abuse Cases Requiring Forensic Intervention	0	0	0	50
Outcome	Cases with Forensic Intervention Resolved ¹	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	80.0%
Efficiency	Dollars Restored to Financial Abuse Victims Due to Team's Intervention	0	0	0	1,500,000

Performance Measure - Description

¹ Cases with Forensic intervention resolved will track several outcomes that indicate a successful resolution or outcome of cases requiring the intervention of the FAST team. A successful resolution can be any or a combination of the following 1) Civil remedy by a private legal services 2) Client having a legal guardian or conservator appointed 3) reversal of exploitation (e.g. perpetrator returning stolen funds, or property without criminal prosecution, or plea Bargain 4) Criminal prosecution, restitution ordered and/or number of days or months in jail.

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

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2011	2011	2012	2012
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$82,188	\$0
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$1,297	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$0	\$98,485	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$98,485	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

\$98,485 - County General Fund

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: