

Lead Agency: County Human Services

Program Contact: Mary Li

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

Bridges to Housing (B2H) helps at least 70% of families served maintain their housing six months after exit, thus reducing their reliance on county services. B2H provides high-resource-using homeless families with intensive case management, permanently affordable housing, and childcare resources. High-resource-using homeless families have no permanent place to live, have at least one child under the age of 18, use a large amount of county-funded services, interact with several service systems at the same time, and have serious barriers that cause them to be excluded from housing.

The 139 B2H units 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. County funds provide support services to families living in these units.

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.

B2H case managers work with no more than 15 families at a time to move them into a B2H housing unit, prevent them from losing their housing, prevent the children from being removed into state custody, and help them obtain the services needed to achieve their goals.

County funds serve 139 B2H families currently in housing, leveraging: funds from City of Portland and State of Oregon to build and maintain the housing; \$6,000 per family per year in rent assistance funds from the Housing Authority of Portland; and \$958,000 to date in matching funds from private foundations. B2H uses a holistic approach focused on coordinated service addressing multiple and complex needs.

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 making it impossible for them to lease apartments without B2H.

While B2H families use services from multiple county systems, their inability to access housing causes those services to be ineffective and poorly coordinated. B2H provides housing units to this very difficult to house population, and case managers coordinate services across service systems, increasing those services' efficiency and effectiveness.

Families supported by B2H are expected to become successful renters, be less likely to have their children removed and placed in foster care, be more likely to have their children succeed in school, be less likely to have episodes of domestic violence, and be less likely to be involved in the criminal justice system.

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	# of high resource using homeless families served	80	80	80	80
Outcome	% of families served that remain in permanent housing 6 months after exit	92.0%	70.0%	70.0%	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

N/A

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2011	2011	2012	2012
Contracts	\$467,516	\$0	\$467,516	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$467,516	\$0	\$467,516	\$0
Program Total:	\$467,516		\$467,516	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

\$467,516 - County General Fund

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #25114A, Bridges to Housing
 There are no significant changes to this program offer.