

Lead Agency: County Human Services

Program Contact: Mary Li

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs: 25063

Program Characteristics: In Target

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.

In FY 2010, HBR achieved a 72% success rate in gaining benefits for eligible individuals receiving services through the Multnomah Treatment Fund.

Program Description

Homeless Benefits Recovery (HBR) provides benefits eligibility determination, systems advocacy, and short-term case management to approximately 120 individuals annually who are served by the Multnomah Treatment Fund. The Multnomah Treatment Fund is a County General Fund 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 SSI/SSDI appeals process continues.

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 took an average of three months to secure benefits for enrolled clients which compares very favorably to the national average timeline of up to two years. At the start of services, HBR clients were earning an average of \$143 per month and at exit, they were earning \$705 per month. 86% of clients had no primary health care option at the start of services and are now covered through Medicaid.

During the year prior to services, HBR clients now receiving federal benefits used \$35,585 in mental health services from the Treatment Fund; were put on emergency holds for a total of 94 days, the equivalent of \$75,200; and had 23 instances of mobile outreach with Project Respond, the equivalent of \$1,360.

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 (FY09-10)	Current Year Purchased (FY10-11)	Current Year Estimate (FY10-11)	Next Year Offer (FY11-12)
Output	# of chronic homeless individuals with disabilities served	77	120	120	120
Outcome	% of individuals served who receive benefit	74.0%	50.0%	72.0%	75.0%

Performance Measure - Description

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	\$401,265	\$0	\$401,265	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$401,265	\$0	\$401,265	\$0
Program Total:	\$401,265		\$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: #25115, Homeless Benefit Recovery Project
 There are no significant changes to this program offer.