

Lead Agency: County Human Services

Program Contact: Mary Li

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Bridges to Housing (B2H) provides high-resource-using homeless families with intensive case management, permanently affordable housing, and flexible funds. These 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. At least 70% of families served maintain their housing six months after exit.

The 139 B2H units were developed with funding from the City of Portland and State of Oregon, most have permanent rent assistance provided by Home Forward. County funds provide support services to families living in these units.

Program Description

Bridges to Housing (B2H) was developed to assist a challenging group of homeless families. While many 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 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, experiencing mental health or addictions, 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.

County funds serve 139 B2H families currently in housing with case management and other support services, leveraging funds from City of Portland and State of Oregon to build and maintain the housing and \$7,000 per family per year in rent assistance from Home Forward.

Evaluation through Portland State University shows that families supported by B2H are becoming successful renters, are less likely to have their children removed and placed in foster care, more likely to have their children succeed in school, less likely to have episodes of domestic violence, and less likely to be involved in the criminal justice system.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY10-11)	Current Year Purchased (FY11-12)	Current Year Estimate (FY11-12)	Next Year Offer (FY12-13)
Output	# of families served ¹	104	80	139	139
Outcome	% of households served that remain in permanent housing 6 months after exit ²	90.0%	70.0%	70.0%	70.0%

Performance Measure - Description

¹ Increase in number served reflects final investment of on-going funding. Number served will not increase in subsequent years.

² 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	2012	2012	2013	2013
Contracts	\$947,516	\$0	\$971,204	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$947,516	\$0	\$971,204	\$0
Program Total:	\$947,516		\$971,204	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

\$971,204 County General Fund

Significant Program ChangesLast year this program was: #25114A, Bridges to Housing