

Lead Agency: Community Justice

Program Contact: Bill Penny

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

By assessing a defendant's potential to appear for court hearings and/or reoffend if released from custody, the Adult Recognizance (Recog) unit performs functions critical to the effective operation of the local justice system. If a defendant is determined to most likely appear for court hearings and is a low risk to reoffend, he/she is released. This process allows for scarce jail beds to be reserved for higher risk defendants.

Data from FY 2011 has shown that nine out of ten defendants released by Recog returned for their scheduled court appearance. A recent study designed to measure the success of Recog's risk assessment tool found, "The Recog instrument currently provides sound guidance about which defendants can be safely released on their own recognizance. Any recommended modifications to the instrument are designed to improve upon these already encouraging results." (Dedel, 2008)

Program Description

The Recog unit is a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week program housed in the County jail. Recog staff interview all defendants with a pending Multnomah County charge. Defendants charged with felonies and/or person-to-person misdemeanor crimes are subject to a full criminal history and warrant check in addition to a risk screening. This process takes approximately one hour per defendant and provides a comprehensive, objective and valid system for release decisions based upon victim and community safety in addition to the defendant's flight risk. The screening tool used to guide Recog staff has been validated by an independent research group. The results of that study have been approved by the Community Justice Advisory Council. By administering this process, the Recog program allows lower risk defendants the ability to maintain pro-social conditions such as employment and housing.

Recog serves as a 24-hour link between local law enforcement agencies and Parole/Probation Officers (PPO) by coordinating the process of holding parole and probation violators in jail and providing after-hours information on high risk individuals who are on electronic monitoring.

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	Number of cases processed annually	21,896	32,500	35,736	35,000
Outcome	Percent of interviewed defendants who return to court	94.0%	88.0%	94.0%	90.0%

Performance Measure - Description

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

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2012	2012	2013	2013
Personnel	\$1,314,345	\$0	\$1,390,653	\$0
Contracts	\$378	\$0	\$383	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$22,587	\$0	\$12,817	\$0
Internal Services	\$12,979	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$1,350,289	\$0	\$1,403,853	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,350,289		\$1,403,853	
Program FTE	14.80	0.00	15.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

County General Fund

Significant Program ChangesLast year this program was: #50033, Adult Recog Program