

Lead Agency: County Human Services

Program Contact: Mary Li

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs:

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 application or appeals system. Based on census data estimates and data from the Social Security Administration, locally only 11% of those eligible receive benefits.

In FY12, HBR assisted 207 individuals, 82% of whom obtained SSI/SSDI benefits, successfully transitioning their treatment costs from the Multnomah Treatment Fund.

Program Description

HBR assists 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 and without insurance or benefits.

HBR services include: eligibility screening, application assistance, appeals process advocacy, case management, and medical and other documentation to individuals evaluated to be potentially eligible for SSI/SSDI. 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 whose cost of care is not reimbursed. Local estimates using census data identifies 39% of the chronic homeless population as 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.

Without benefits, individuals are either without services and utilizing expensive, locally-funded safety net services – jail, hospital/medical care, or other safety net services – or have their treatment paid for with scarce local community (non-federal) funds.

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. In 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.

Performance Measures

| Measure Type | Primary Measure | Previous Year Actual (FY11-12) | Current Year Purchased (FY12-13) | Current Year Estimate (FY12-13) | Next Year Offer (FY13-14) |
|--------------|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Output | # of individuals served | 207 | 120 | 120 | 120 |
| Outcome | % of individuals served who receive benefits | 82.0% | 75.0% | 75.0% | 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 | 2013 | 2013 | 2014 | 2014 |
| Contracts | \$411,297 | \$0 | \$420,551 | \$0 |
| Total GF/non-GF: | \$411,297 | \$0 | \$420,551 | \$0 |
| Program Total: | \$411,297 | | \$420,551 | |
| Program FTE | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Program Revenues | | | | |
| Total Revenue: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Explanation of Revenues

\$420,551 - County General Fund

Significant Program ChangesLast year this program was: #25115A, Homeless Benefit Recovery Project