

Lead Agency: Community Justice

Program Contact: Laura Ritchie

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

By assessing a defendant's probability 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 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 2012 has shown that 77% of 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. The Recog interview assists the court with release decisions for those defendants that are ineligible for release by Recog staff.

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. Recog is a system response and collaborative effort with the Courts. Recog helps to alleviate the use of jail beds for the identified offenders, thereby reserving space for higher risk offenders.

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	Number of cases processed annually	33,000	35,000	36,000	36,000
Outcome	Percent of interviewed defendants who return to court	76.0%	90.0%	77.0%	80.0%

Performance Measure - Description

FY 13 purchased new measure.

FY 13 estimate = baseline measure.

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

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2013	2013	2014	2014
Personnel	\$1,390,653	\$0	\$1,452,442	\$0
Contracts	\$383	\$0	\$383	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$12,817	\$0	\$12,346	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$1,403,853	\$0	\$1,465,171	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,403,853		\$1,465,171	
Program FTE	15.00	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: #50035, Adult Recog Program