

Program #50052B - Family Court Services - Mediation Service Expansion

2/18/2016

Department:Community JusticeProgram Contact:Judith Moyer

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program Program Offer Stage: As Requested

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics: Out of Target

Executive Summary

Family Court Services provides mandatory and/or voluntary domestic relations mediation services to residents of Multnomah County and parties who have a historic Multnomah County DR filing. Provision of this service is required by State statute. The program has existed for over three decades and annually serves in excess of 3500 parents. This offer is to add one additional Marriage and Family Counselor (M&F) to support the Program Mandates, Court Ordered Evaluations and Expansion of services to the East County Courthouse.

Program Summary

During prior budget year constraints, one full time M&F Counselor position was eliminated which dramatically decreased the number of custody evaluations that were completed having a significant impact on low income parents and children who are unable to afford evaluations in the private sector.

Family Court Services has always been located in the downtown central Courthouse. The location of mediation services has long been a burden for parents who reside in East Multnomah County. Demographics support that over 40% of the population living in poverty reside in outer East County and the Gresham/East County area. Additionally, 33% of the population in those areas are populations of color. Transportation and child care have been major obstacles to those residents receiving services.

In November of 2015, FCS began offering mediation appointments at the East County Courthouse one day per week. The East County Courthouse located at 184th and Stark is much more accessible to the approximately 36% of our population that lives in that area. The limited appointments we currently offer quickly filled up with very little outreach or notice of availability. Parents as well as Judges have expressed gratitude, support and enthusiasm for this option. As the court and the public become more aware of the East County option it is anticipated that the demand will grow. The reinstatement of one M&F counselor will be essential to the support of this expanded effort.

| Performance Measures | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--|----------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|--|--|--|
| Measure Type | Primary Measure | FY15 Actual | FY16 Purchased | FY16 Estimate | FY17 Offer | | | |
| Output | Number of evaluations completed | NEW | NEW | NEW | 30 | | | |
| Outcome | Number of expert testimony court appearances | NEW | NEW | NEW | 8 | | | |

Performance Measures Descriptions

Revenue/Expense Detail

| | Proposed General Fund | Proposed Other Funds | Proposed General Fund | Proposed Other Funds | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Program Expenses | 2016 | 2016 | 2017 | 2017 | |
| Personnel | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$101,505 | |
| Materials & Supplies | \$0 | \$0 | \$12,546 | \$260 | |
| Internal Services | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$15,226 | |
| Total GF/non-GF | \$0 | \$0 | \$12,546 | \$116,991 | |
| Program Total: | \$ | \$0 | | \$129,537 | |
| Program FTE | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | |

| Program Revenues | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|----------|-----------|--|--|--|--|
| Indirect for Dept. Admin | \$0 | \$0 | \$12,546 | \$0 | | | | |
| Fees, Permits & Charges | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$116,991 | | | | |
| Other / Miscellaneous | \$0 | \$0 | \$12,546 | \$0 | | | | |
| Total Revenue | \$0 | \$0 | \$25,092 | \$116,991 | | | | |

Explanation of Revenues

\$ 116,991 based on anticipated change in split of State Allocated funding for conciliation and mediation services.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: