

Program #10065 - Diversion - Expanded Services

Nondepartmental

Program Contact: Marc Jolin

Department: Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program Program Offer Stage: As Adopted

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

In order to reduce homelessness we must reduce the number of people becoming homeless in our community. Done correctly, diversion is a much better strategy for the individual or family, because they avoid the trauma of becoming homeless, and for the community, because it can be substantially less costly to divert a person from homelessness than to help them end it once they have become homeless.

Program Summary

The Executive Committee of A Home for Everyone (AHFE) adopted a set of recommendations at its January 2015 meeting meant to keep our community on track to reduce the unmet need for permanent housing by 50% by the end of 2017. Implementation of those recommendations should substantially reduce or eliminate the over-representation of people of color in the street and shelter homeless population, dramatically reduce unsheltered homelessness among women through a combination of permanent housing and shelter, and provide critical housing and shelter resources to people with severe and persistent mental illness.

The AHFE recommendations included investments in strategies that would prevent or divert 1,000 people from becoming homeless. Prevention and diversion are similar in that both assist a person or family from becoming literally homeless, meaning sleeping on the streets, in shelter, or transitional housing. Prevention does this by helping someone who currently has a home from losing that home (e.g., a tenant facing eviction for non-payment of rent).

Diversion assists someone who does not have permanent housing of their own to obtain permanent housing before becoming literally homeless (e.g. someone coming of long term-treatment transitions directly to permanent housing).

This program would fund diversions from homelessness for AHFE priority populations, in particular for women, people of color and people with disabilities. It would do this primarily through three recommended strategies adopted by the Executive Committee, all of which have been shown to be effective at diverting people from homelessness:

- Flexible financial assistance for agencies providing shelter or coordinating access to shelter that allows them to help families sustain a current non-permanent living situation (e.g. safely doubled up) rather than come to shelter;
- Staff and financial support to assist with placing people who are leaving healthcare and treatment programs directly into permanent housing:
- Long-distance transportation assistance to individuals and families with permanent housing options in other communities and who without the transportation assistance could not access that permanent housing and would instead access the local shelter system:

All of the providers contracted to provide services through this program will be culturally specific or culturally responsive.

Performance Measures									
Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY15 Actual	FY16 Purchased	FY16 Estimate	FY17 Offer				
Output	Individuals diverted from street and shelter homelessness	N/A	N/A	N/A	500				
Outcome	Percentage of individuals retaining housing at 6 months	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%				

Performance Measures Descriptions

6/30/2016

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	
Program Expenses	2016	2016	2017	2017	
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$440,000	\$1,100,000	
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$440,000	\$1,100,000	
Program Total:	\$0		\$1,540,000		
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Program Revenues							
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,100,000			
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,100,000			

Explanation of Revenues

\$440,000 New One-Time-Only General Fund - Multnomah County \$1,100,000 New General Fund - City of Portland

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: