

Department: District Attorney **Program Contact:** Mike Schmidt
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: Out of Target

Executive Summary

The Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) Expansion will dramatically increase the number of community members who have old convictions expunged and fines and fees forgiven. MCDA will accomplish with this new staff dedicated to this work. This program will serve individuals who have incurred negative collateral consequences of convictions. We know these people are disproportionately people of color and people with limited means. People will be able to access this program in person at MCDA, in locations in the community, and on-line. Importantly, this work will happen every day in Multnomah County, not just quarterly.

Program Summary

A robust Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) will provide MCDA with the capacity to actively engage with community members to support them to expunge old convictions and address fines and fees—so-called collateral consequences of criminal legal involvement. CIU will work with community groups to significantly reduce barriers and encourage engagement in the legal process. Addressing collateral consequences of criminal legal involvement allows those impacted to access essential resources like housing, lines of credit, driver’s licenses, and better employment opportunities. It also alleviates many complex stressors, reduces hopelessness, and lessens the generational trauma and impact of criminal involvement. This will result in stronger families, safer streets, and thriving communities where the criminal justice system can restore those effected, not just burden them.

This program will have a dramatic impact on reducing racial disparity of collateral consequences of criminal legal involvement. Due to the pandemic, Legal Services Day was presented virtually. MCDA tracked who was served before and after this shift. When we removed barriers to showing up at the County Courthouse, the participation of women jumped from 40% to 67%. People of color served increased from 42% to 58%, with even greater gains for women of color. MCDA anticipates that by staffing this consistently, and by making outreach to community groups core to the responsibilities of the role, we can continue to have similarly dramatic positive outcomes for these populations.

This program is a cornerstone of answering the call from this summer’s demonstrations to actively reduce the disparity that the criminal legal system has had on people of color. A robust CIU would enable us to repair past harms, and assist people who have already been held accountable to move on with their lives and thrive.

Cost estimates for staffing this unit came from our experience working with Legal Services Day, as well as from conversations with other DA offices around the country.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Number and demographics of people served by the CIU.	N/A	N/A	N/A	300
Outcome	Number of expunged convictions; cumulative value of fines and fees eliminated.	N/A	N/A	N/A	300

Performance Measures Descriptions

MCDA has not previously tracked the number of people served by quarterly Legal Services Days. This position will establish centralized intake and data collection.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$439,142	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$439,142	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$439,142	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: