



Department of County Management
MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

Budget Office

**501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 531
Portland, Oregon 97214
(503) 988-3312 phone
(503) 988-5758 fax
(503) 988-5170 TDD**

TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Allegra Willhite, Senior Budget Analyst
DATE: August 25, 2015
SUBJECT: General Fund Contingency Request of \$125,000 to Establish a Food Policy Coordinator

The Department of County Human Services (DCHS) has requested \$125,000 of General Fund contingency to fund the hiring and activities of a Food Policy Coordinator. This position will lead the County's anti-hunger agenda, coordinate services across departments, develop strategies to address food insecurity, improve access to Federal food benefits, develop a food legislative agenda, and create technical assistance tools to assist partners in accessing Federal funding.

General Fund Contingency Policy Compliance

The Budget Office is required to inform the Board if contingency requests submitted for approval satisfy the general guidelines and policies for using the General Fund Contingency.

In particular,

- Criterion 1 states contingency requests should be for one-time-only purposes. **This request is for one-time-only funding for a limited duration position and contracted services to support the County's anti-hunger agenda.**
- Criterion 2 addresses emergencies and unanticipated situations. **This item is not an emergency and was anticipated during the FY 2016 budget process.**
- Criterion 3 addresses items identified in Board Budget Notes. **This item was identified in a Board Budget Note for Fiscal Year 2016 that states:**

One of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners' core missions and values is a healthy community. Food is inextricably linked to health outcomes. Access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food is a key determinate of health. Research shows poor nutrition at critical periods of a child's development alters the structure and function of the body's organs and systems making them more vulnerable to developing chronic diseases like heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Nutrition determines health outcomes, even affecting the genes that can last for the rest of one's life and be passed on to the next generation. Food security, access to nutritious food and nutrition education are vital and are important features of many Multnomah County programs and initiatives. Food issues touch most Multnomah County

departments, including a breadth of direct programs and longer-term working groups and planning strategies to address hunger, nutrition, access, and education. However, there is no county internal infrastructure to direct county policy, coordinate departments and find efficiencies or innovations. \$125,000 is allocated in the General Fund contingency of one- time-only funding and directs the Chief Operating Officer, Office of Sustainability, the Health Department, and the Department of County Human Services to propose a plan for a food policy position for the Board's approval by August 15th, 2015.