

May 2, 2013

(sent to employees by e-mail)

Dear Friends,

This morning, I released my [proposed county budget](#) for fiscal year 2014. Preparing this budget is always a complex task, but thanks to the hard work and the tough choices we've made at the county these past few years, I'm happy to report that our budget is finally stable.

This newfound stability is also the result of sacrifices made by county employees -- including pay freezes -- as well as the May approval of the library district by voters and a slowly recovering economy.

And while I remain cautiously optimistic about the upcoming county budget, the fact is we don't yet know how federal sequester, potential state cuts and the City of Portland's upcoming budget process will impact the county down the line.

As the case has always been, the aim of my FY2014 proposed budget is to preserve the essential services the county provides to our 748,000 residents and prepare for any external factors that might hurt our ability to do so.

This budget prioritizes the direct services that allow the county to care for our most vulnerable populations including children, people with mental health concerns and the homeless. And it reflects our ongoing commitment to reducing costs, becoming more efficient and promoting the county's values of diversity, sustainability and public safety.

Some highlights from my proposed budget include:

- **\$207,000** for Mental Health First Aid training, a program that will teach 700 first-responders, such as nurses and case workers, how to help someone experiencing a mental health crisis.
- **\$986,000** to fund the following eight high-poverty [School Uniting Neighborhoods \(SUN\)](#) community school sites that were formerly funded by the City of Portland's Children's Levy: Jackson Middle School, Whitman Elementary School, Franklin High School, Mill Park Elementary School, Gilbert Heights Elementary School, Menlo Park Elementary School, Glenfair Elementary School and Parklane Elementary School.
- **\$3.34 million** for the newly expanded [Southeast Health Center](#), which provides low-cost primary care, behavioral health, pharmacy, laboratory and other support services to residents of Southeast Portland who lack health insurance.
- **\$1 million** for enhanced coordination to increase immediate temporary housing access for hundreds of homeless families.
- **\$245,000** to double the number of participants in Summer Youth Connect, a program that provides valuable work experience and employment to low-income youth in our community, to 100 internship positions at Multnomah County.

- **\$2.1 million** to mitigate the worst impact of the federal sequester and potential for state cuts.
- **\$1 million** to address commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in our community. This money will fund treatment for girls younger than age 18 who are CSEC victims, as well as invest in law enforcement to catch and prosecute those who exploit children.

Leading up to the June 6 adoption of the FY 2014 county budget by the Board of County Commissioners, there will be several [televised budget work sessions](#), as well as three public hearings. During the [three public hearings](#), which will be on May 8, 22 and 29, residents will have the opportunity to weigh in.

Sincerely,

Jeff Cogen, Chair
Multnomah County