

Multnomah County

2014 State Legislative Agenda

BUDGET PRIORITIES

Restore full state funding for programs supporting vulnerable populations

Ensure Multnomah County's most vulnerable populations are protected as a first priority, particularly programs affecting children and families. Support a balanced approach to new investments for mental health, housing, senior programs, and other social service programs.

Restore full state funding for Community Corrections

Restore funding to Community Corrections programs.

Preserve current Juvenile Crime Prevention funding formula

Ensure counties continue to receive Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) funds through the existing statutory formula. Multnomah County uses JCP funds for a community-based treatment program that has successfully reduced juvenile crime and promoted school success.

Restore funding for Emergency Housing and Homeless Assistance

Restore funding for the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and the State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP). Urge Oregon Housing and Community Services to consolidate these programs and align the program outcomes to the federal HEARTH Act.

Protect and enhance shared state revenue

Preserve and enhance Multnomah County's share of state liquor, lottery and tobacco revenues. These funds are critical to helping fund local public safety, healthcare and other essential services.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs)

Monitor and respond to legislation designed to modify the current structure and/or requirements of CCOs.

Support tobacco tax increase

Support legislation to increase the state tobacco tax. Oregon's cigarette tax is currently \$1.31 per pack while Washington collects \$3.02. Increased taxes will decrease cigarette sales but still generate additional revenue which can be used for health care, mental health and other critical services.

Support restrictions on E-cigarettes

Prohibit the sale of e-cigarettes to minors and require that they be taxed.

Restore policy on incarceration for technical violations

Restore a policy that sunsetted in 2013 that reduces the maximum length of incarceration for technical violations from 180 to 60 days.

Marijuana legalization revenue

Ensure counties receive adequate funding to address increased need for public safety and addiction services if marijuana becomes legal in Oregon. Oregon voters are likely to consider marijuana legalization next November either through a legislative referral or as a result of one or more potential ballot initiatives.

Improve veteran's services

Expand housing and employment support; provide resources for county veteran's services offices.

Support policy and budget adjustments for downtown courthouse project

Work with the Oregon Judicial Department and the Department of Administrative Services to make any adjustments to budget authority and needed language changes to courthouse construction provisions of SB 5506 to keep the project on schedule.