

Multnomah County

2015 Federal Legislative Agenda

BUDGET PRIORITIES

- Restore funding for Community Health Clinics to 2014 levels.
- Ensure maintenance of public health funding streams.
- Support funding for the Defending Childhood and Promise Zone Initiatives, the formula-funded youth programs in the Workforce Investment Act and Safe Routes to School.
- Support continued funding for Community Development and Community Services Block Grants as well as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.
- Support funding for levee accreditation and repairs.

POLICY PRIORITIES

- Support increased funding for transportation infrastructure including stand-alone funding for bridge maintenance and repair as well as the reauthorization of the TIGER discretionary grant program.
- Avoid unnecessary cost increases in public infrastructure projects by maintaining the longstanding tax treatment of interest on municipal bonds.
- End the cost shift to local taxpayers by allowing Medicaid and VA reimbursement of medical care to individuals incarcerated in county jails.
- Remove obstacles to housing for veterans by increasing flexibility of VASH vouchers to include deposits and utilities.
- Extend duration of eligibility for Supportive Services for Veterans Families to 24 months to reflect the need for sustained and more in-depth assistance to ensure long-term success.
- Protect the National Housing Trust Fund and the decision of the Federal Housing Finance Agency to set aside revenues for the trust fund.
- Support the expansion of locally implemented evidence based strategies to address youth violence that prioritize prevention and early intervention.
- Support “Pay for Success” policy initiatives by assuring access to start up funding and technical assistance necessary for success.
- Require the Departments of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development and Labor to better align human services policies to reduce negative impacts on clients caused by conflicts between the policies of the different departments.

DISCRETIONARY FUNDING PRIORITIES

- Support Promise Zone designation for the Rockwood area of Gresham.
- Support applications for discretionary grants submitted throughout the year that are central to the County’s strategic vision and mission.