

## **DRAFT MULTNOMAH COUNTY FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2011**

### **FUNDING PRIORITIES**

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

##### **Sellwood Bridge**

The Sellwood Bridge is the busiest two-lane bridge in Oregon with over 30,000 daily vehicle crossings. The 90-year old bridge rates very low in federal safety standards as a result of its age and the geological movement of the West Hills buckling the structure. Weight restrictions have been in place since 2004, affecting freight trucks and buses as well as the local economy. The Sellwood Bridge project has a preferred alternative approved by a federal Record of Decision. A deck arch bridge type has been selected and in-water construction is anticipated in the summer of 2012. The project will create approximately 4,000 jobs.

Request: Multnomah County is seeking \$20 million in federal funding to complete the project. To date, the project has secured \$270 million through contributions from Multnomah County, City of Portland, Clackamas County, the State of Oregon, and eleven million in previously secured federal funds.

#### **HEALTH CARE REFORM**

Multnomah County has reviewed potential health reform funding opportunities that could help expand, enhance and integrate the care we offer throughout our community and have identified the following grants:

**Community Transformation Grant** funds State and local governmental agencies and community-based organizations for the implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of evidence-based community preventive health activities in order to reduce chronic disease rates, prevent the development of secondary conditions, address health disparities, and develop a stronger evidence-base of effective prevention programming. This grant opportunity is an ideal opportunity for Multnomah County to build off of our successful \$7.5 million grant for obesity prevention efforts.

##### **Chronic Disease Prevention Grant**

Multnomah County is working with our State Medicaid agency to assess the potential for applying for a chronic disease prevention grant opportunity.

##### **Mental Health Screening, Community Health Center Construction, and Tobacco Cessation grants**

As grant opportunities arise in the areas of mental health screening, community health center construction and tobacco cessation, Multnomah County will be assessing and submitting applications for programs that fit with community needs.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **Financial and Elder Abuse Prosecution Project**

While seniors comprise just 13 percent of the general population; they possess 50 percent of the total wealth, making them disproportionately targeted for financial fraud and abuse. As seniors live longer, they become increasingly vulnerable to financial manipulation, abuse and neglect. Financial abuse is the fastest growing form of abuse. It is estimated that for every one case of elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, or self-neglect reported to authorities, approximately five go unreported. Between 2007 and 2009, Multnomah County had 1361 cases of financial elder abuse. Multnomah County will continue to seek grant opportunities to address financial and elder abuse.

### **U.S. Department of Labor Grant**

Multnomah County Department of Community Justice will be seeking U.S. Department of Labor monies to serve adult offenders who are returning from incarceration to high-poverty, high-crime communities. The purpose of the grant is to provide an employment-centered approach to reintegration that improves long-term labor market prospects for ex-offenders.

## **BLOCK GRANTS**

Multnomah County supports annual funding in the following areas to support the community and safety net services vital to our residents.

### **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)**

CDBG is federal funding source dedicated for activities such as public facilities and improvements, public services, and housing rehab for East County cities. This funding has allowed Multnomah County to support projects that help stabilize low-income communities by improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods. The county also funds public service projects and housing rehab projects that improve housing conditions for low and moderate income families.

### **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**

CSBG is federal funding dedicated to legislatively mandated community action agencies. Funds must be used to support work in one of two areas – easing the experience of those living in poverty and ending the conditions that cause poverty. Funds are used to support the Commission on Children Families and Community and the system of anti-poverty providers linked to our SUN Service System.

### **Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants (EECBG)**

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 established the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program to assist states and local governments in reducing fossil fuel emission and improving energy efficiency in the transportation and building sectors.

## POLICY PRIORITIES

### **Health Care for Jail Inmates**

County governments are prohibited by law from billing federal programs for the health services provided to jail inmates prior to adjudication. Private insurers also refuse to reimburse the county for health care costs; this practice originates in individual policies rather than being governed by state or federal law. Multnomah County supports federal legislation that would repeal the inmate exception for those in custody pending disposition of charges.

### **Human Trafficking**

Multnomah County supports the Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act of 2010 authored by Senators Ron Wyden and John Coryn to create a state pilot program to help law enforcement crackdown on pimps and traffickers and create shelters, provide treatment, counseling and legal aid for the underage girls that are forced into sex trafficking.

### **Family Violence Prevention**

Multnomah County supports the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act reauthorization. This provides the only federal funding source dedicated directly to domestic violence shelters and programs.