

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

ORDER NO. _____

Amending the Class Special Procurement Process to Contract with Energy Bill Payment Assistance Suppliers/Vendors Under the Energy Assistance Program

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. The Board, acting as the Multnomah County Public Contract Review Board, has received a request pursuant to PCRB Rule 47-0285 from the Department of County Human Services Community Services Division to amend Board Order 2010-094 extending the Class Special Procurement authorization for energy bill payment assistance under the Energy Assistance Program to September 30, 2015.
- B. The energy bill payment assistance program is designed to ensure low-income households have access to assistance in paying their utility bills in order to maintain service and avoid shut-off.
- C. The program is a federally and state funded, state-managed, and county-administered program serving low-income people in accordance with federal and state guidelines. The County took over the responsibility of paying vendors/suppliers in 1993. Under the current program, nine contract agencies (identified separately on the attached list) handle household eligibility determinations and amount of entitlement, using federal and state guidelines. These agencies approve payments, the County authorizes the use of program funds and pays the energy vendor/supplier, and the vendor/supplier provides the energy. Board Order 95-136 was granted in 1995 for the first five years of the program and is renewed every five years by a new Board Order. The current Class Special Procurement authorization terminates on June 30, 2015 and DCHS is requesting a three month extension of the authorization to align the Board's authorization with the termination date of contract between the County and the state that funds this program.
- D. Eligible households identify the provider of their home energy. The program pays those specifically identified vendor/suppliers directly. Utility vendors/supplier identified by the eligible household who is willing to accept payment from the County. Because the vendor is chosen by eligible households, this class special procurement process is unlikely to encourage favoritism in the awarding of public contract or to substantially diminish competition for public contracts.
- E. The attached list names all current vendors/suppliers who have agreed to accept payment from the County. The list is not closed to new vendors/suppliers as eligible households may identify them in the future.
- F. The County expects to provide approximately \$5 million of energy bill payment assistance annually. Funding level is dependent on federal and state allocation.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Orders:

1. This Class Special Procurement request to extend DCHS's authorization to contract with energy vendor/suppliers on the attached list (and any other vendor/supplier who is identified by an eligible household and is willing to accept payment from the County) to September 30, 2015 is approved.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 20__.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By _____
Patrick W. Henry
Assistant County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: KaRin Johnson, Director
Department of County Human Services