

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-006

Adopting the Multnomah County 2015 Federal Legislative Agenda.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. The actions of the United States Congress have a significant impact on the residents of Multnomah County and on Multnomah County government.
- b. In order to communicate effectively with members of the United States Congress and improve the County's legislative outcomes, it is necessary for the Board of County Commissioners to identify legislative priorities.
- c. The Multnomah County 2015 Federal Legislative Agenda has been developed with input from County Commissioners, County department leadership and community advocates.
- d. The Multnomah County 2015 Federal Legislative Agenda will serve to guide the actions of County leaders and advocates during the 2015 session of the Oregon Legislature.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. To undertake all activities and wisely use the necessary resources to promote the success of the attached Multnomah County 2015 Federal Legislative Agenda.
2. To reserve the right to modify any policy position in the 2015 Federal Legislative Agenda.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of January, 2015.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

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

Jenny M. Madkour

By _____
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Claudia Black, Director of Government Relations.

Multnomah County

2015 Federal Legislative Agenda

BUDGET PRIORITIES

Health and Human Services

- Restore funding for Community Health Clinics to 2014 levels by reauthorizing the Health Center Fund in the Affordable Care Act.
- Ensure maintenance of public health funding streams.
- Support funding for the Defending Childhood and Promise Neighborhood Initiatives, the formula-funded youth programs in the Workforce Investment Opportunity 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 Promise Zone designation for the Rockwood area of Gresham.
- Identify discretionary grants and support applications submitted throughout the year that are central to the County's strategic vision and mission.

Infrastructure

- Support additional funding for levee accreditation and repairs through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Support increased funding for Environmental Protection Agency grants to restore contaminated brownfields.
- Support Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding at or above 2014 levels to sustain emergency preparedness for the Portland Metro Region.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Health

- End the cost shift to local taxpayers by allowing Medicaid and VA reimbursement of medical care to individuals incarcerated in county jails.

Veterans

- 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.

Children and Families

- Strengthen federal family leave policies in order to support children and families, as well as the economy.

Affordable Housing

- Protect the National Housing Trust Fund and the decision of the Federal Housing Finance Agency to set aside revenues for the trust fund.

Prevention Investments

- Support “Pay for Success” policy initiatives by assuring access to start up funding and technical assistance necessary for success.

Infrastructure

- Support continuation of the Highway Trust Fund including stand-alone funding for bridge maintenance and repair and 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.