

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.