

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

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Opposing Proposed Changes in the State Legislature to the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides cash assistance to low-income families with children while they strive to become self-sufficient. The program's goal is to reduce the number of families living in poverty, through employment and community resources. TANF only serves families with children with incomes less than 40% of Federal Poverty Level (\$7,300 per year for a family of three). The current maximum monthly benefit for a family of three is \$506.
- b. Nearly 20 percent of Oregon's children (166,073) are living in poverty. Oregon's TANF program currently provides cash assistance to 30,108 families (54,000 children), 8,353 of whom live in Multnomah County.
- c. TANF is a basic element of our community's safety net, a system the state has built over decades to allow families to meet the basic needs of their children.
- d. Current legislative proposals would reduce the lifetime eligibility for assistance from 5 years to 18 months, impacting a projected 7,500 families and dramatically altering a program that has been built over time to help those in most need. According to the Income and Policy Benefits Center at the Urban Institute, this would make Oregon's TANF program the shortest of any in the nation.
- e. Additional proposals in front of the Legislature would limit the work training component of the program, further reducing the ability of families to become self-sufficient.
- f. Many Multnomah County programs work with families on TANF as they are getting back onto their feet. Our case management and anti-poverty programs are successful in conjunction with TANF.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. To support families struggling to exit poverty by opposing changes in the lifetime limits for eligibility of TANF in the state legislature.

ADOPTED this 5th day of May 2011.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jeff Cogen, Chair

REVIEWED:

HENRY H. LAZENBY, JR., COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By _____
Henry H. Lazenby, Jr., County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:
Vice-Chair Deborah Kafoury, District 1