

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-157**

Adopting the Poverty Elimination Framework: Findings and Policy Recommendations

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. The County has a vital role to play in eliminating poverty, providing access to systems of support to help people meet their basic needs, and helping all people build economic and personal assets to achieve self-sufficiency. The Poverty Elimination Framework will guide our decision-making around both budget and policy efforts toward ending poverty into the future.
- b. Multnomah County currently funds a wide array of services for people and families throughout the income spectrum including housing assistance, health and mental health services, services for educational support, crime prevention, interdiction and prosecution services, and library services. These services all contribute to improving people's lives and strengthening the communities in which they live.
- c. Multnomah County has adopted the School-Aged Policy Framework to align services for school aged youth and the Early Childhood Framework to coordinate planning and programs for families with small children. These policies were adopted to make service delivery more efficient and effective.
- d. Adoption of the Poverty Elimination Framework and implementation of the policy recommendations contained within it will complete a comprehensive systems strategy for families.
- e. The process by which the Framework was developed utilized extensive public involvement and reflects broad consensus among diverse constituencies and stakeholders.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:**

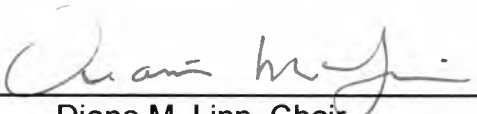
1. To adopt the attached Poverty Elimination Framework Findings and Policy Recommendations in order to elevate the issues of poverty in our community as well as focus our efforts to address poverty through short- and long- term strategy priorities.
2. These strategies will link with those contained in the Early Childhood and School-Aged Policy Frameworks to assure planning, policy, and program alignment and coordination.

3. The work to implement the Poverty Elimination Framework is the responsibility of all County Departments; all have an important role to play and are charged with cooperating and assisting with these efforts.
4. CCFC is designated as the lead entity to inventory current anti-poverty investments across the County, prioritize services and supports in alignment with the Framework, and recommend policy and budget strategies – including multi-jurisdictional partnerships – to the Board for approval.
5. CCFC will bring back to the Board a comprehensive report with specific recommendations covering these areas no later than June 30, 2004. The intent of this work will be to assist the Board in directing realignment of current resources and planning for dedication of new resources in support of these efforts.

ADOPTED this 6th day of November, 2003.

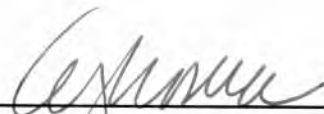


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Agnes Sowle, County Attorney

This Framework is dedicated to Susan Oliver, who passed away in May 2003. Susan was a dedicated community advocate, giving her time generously to Multnomah County's Commission on Children, Families & the Community and the Citizen Involvement Committee in efforts to improve local government programs and services for low-income people.



"Just one person. Sometimes all it takes is for one person to believe in you."



"Think about solutions that work for my whole family."

#### Development Team

The Framework was developed by the Planning & Policy Development Subcommittee of the Poverty Advisory Committee.

#### Members

*Diane Cohen-Alpert, Marilyn Miller, Pauline Anderson, Iris Bell, Karen Belsey, Mary Carroll, Leslie Garth Clark, Commissioner Serena Cruz, Jean DeMaster, Chuck Diamond, Beth Kaye, Mary Li, Andy Miller, Rick Nitti, Susan Oliver, LeRoy Patton, Lorenzo Poe, Staff: Fred King, Janet Hawkins, Wendy Lebow*

#### Poverty Elimination Efforts are:

- Consumer driven and honor the experience and expertise of those living in poverty by including them in all aspects of planning, program development and service delivery.
- Equally focused on policy and service solutions in recognition that community poverty is a result of both economic inequities and personal achievement.
- Supportive of economic self-determination of people and communities by promoting just economic policies and individual responsibility.
- Accountable and results-based requiring all stakeholders to be responsible for the documentation, dissemination and utilization of process and outcome data in their decision-making.
- Based on relationships of equality and respect that eliminate or minimize the impact of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or religion.
- Collaborative and sustainable by encouraging inter-governmental and community-based partnerships in the implementation of the "Poverty Elimination Framework."
- Flexible and innovative relying on upon open dialogue, research and best practices to be effective.
- Integrated into broader community-building efforts in order to engage all community members and to reduce the stigmatization of being labeled "poor."

Please send input to Janet Hawkins, CCFC Staff, at 503.988.3707 or [janet.c.hawkins@co.multnomah.or.us](mailto:janet.c.hawkins@co.multnomah.or.us).

## A Community Tool for Coordinating Planning & Programs



"See the whole me, not just my problems."

POVERTY ELIMINATION  
All People Achieve Economic Sufficiency

MISSIO We are committed to creating a community of support that enables all people to be successful within our economic, political, educational, social, and cultural systems. Multnomah County's aim is to move individuals, families, and communities out of poverty. We are all responsible for long-term system change for economic justice.

\*From "Listening to Consumers Project: Community Focus Groups on Social Services in Multnomah County" Report - July 16, 2003



### Policy Recommendations:

This Framework is intended to elevate the issue of poverty in our community as well as focus our efforts to address poverty through short- and long-term strategy priorities. These strategies will link with those contained in the Early Childhood and School-Aged Policy Services Frameworks to assure planning, policy and program connections. Success of this Framework is dependent on commitment and engagement by all public and private stakeholder groups. We use the word 'people' in this Framework in its most inclusive sense - single adults, couples, children, youth, families with children, seniors, and people with disabilities, and communities.

#### goal one All people work together to end poverty.

##### outcomes

- 1.1 Accurate information about "true" poverty is used for public decision-making, policy setting, and community education
- 1.2 All stakeholders have ownership and accountability for ending poverty
- 1.3 Voices of low-income people are heard

#### goal two All people have access to effective systems of support and resources to meet their basic needs.

##### outcomes

- 2.1 Individuals and families have access to comprehensive, culturally competent services in the following areas:
  - Economic sufficiency
  - Affordable, stable, and decent housing
  - Food security
  - Adequate health care and needed social services.
  - Affordable, reliable transportation
  - Quality child care that is accessible and affordable
  - A safe home and community
- 2.2 Service delivery systems are effective
- 2.3 Accessible and accurate information and referral to resources, supports, and services is available

#### goal three All people have the ability to build economic and personal assets to achieve self-sufficiency.

##### outcomes

- 3.1 Achievement gap for students living on a low-income is eliminated.
- 3.2 Higher proportion of low-income people become part of a skilled workforce and have the capacity to earn a "living wage"
- 3.3 Individual initiative to increase income is supported, barriers are reduced, and incentives for success are in place
- 3.4 Economic development strategies create "living wage" job opportunities for low-income people

##### strategies - proposed

- 1.1 (a) Develop an economic sufficiency standard that accurately reflects the actual nature and extent of poverty
- 1.1 (b) Create a public outreach campaign to mobilize support for anti-poverty programming
- 1.2 (a) Work with state and local governments to define respective roles and develop mechanisms for coordination and accountability
- 1.2 (b) Implementation planning will include input and engagement from diverse stakeholders groups, such as the County's Cultural Diversity Task Force, low-income people and advocacy groups, etc.
- 1.2 (c) Increase community advocacy for poverty elimination
- 1.3 (a) ) Increase voter registration and education activities with people living on a low-income
- 1.3 (b) Engage low-income people and advocates in all aspects of systems and program planning efforts through participation in standing citizen committees, public input opportunities, and community gatherings
- 1.3 (c) Develop mechanisms to ensure that impacted communities participate in decision-making, planning, service delivery, and evaluation

##### strategies - proposed

- 2.1 (a) Establish a set of standards for comprehensive, culturally competent services in each priority service area.
- 2.1 (b) Identify and work with essential partners to build a continuum of service supports: emergency, short-term, and long-term
- 2.1 (c) Cultivate and expand resources to deliver services, i.e., financial, volunteer, in-kind, etc
- 2.2 (a) Government, community organizations, and stakeholders work together to integrate service delivery systems
- 2.2 (b) Develop effective systems to track and report evaluation data
- 2.2 (c) Publicize results drawn from evaluation data
- 2.3 (a) Ensure that a countywide, 24-hour, multi-lingual, single access Information & Referral system, which has telephone and Internet functionality, is available to consumers

##### strategies - proposed

- 3.1 (a) Work with the Commission on Children, Families & Community to coordinate the recommendations of the Poverty Elimination Framework, the School-Age Policy Framework, and the Early Childhood Framework to eliminate the achievement gap for students living on a low income
- 3.1 (b) Work with all local school districts to implement the recommendations of all three Frameworks to eliminate the achievement gap for students living on a low income
- 3.1 (c) Promote a smooth transition from school to work
- 3.2 (a) Work with key partners to ensure that training, placement, and retention support are adequate to meet low-income needs for living wage employment
- 3.2 (b) Provide job seekers and low-wage workers with the training required for "living wage" occupations, along with the income support and support services, such as child care and transportation assistance, needed to participate in training
- 3.3 (a) Work to increase consumer participation in programs that offer new initiatives or alternatives for building assets, i.e. Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), Earned Income Tax Credit Programs, Child Care Credit Programs
- 3.3 (b) Develop business initiatives including microenterprise development
- 3.3 (c) Work with consumers, public agencies, and other stakeholder groups to ensure that increased financial success does not jeopardize needed support services, e.g., ERDC, Oregon Health Plan, etc.
- 3.3 (d) Promote training and work experience initiatives to make it possible for those currently working in jobs that pay less than a "living wage" to move into "living wage" employment
- 3.4 (a) Business and stakeholder groups are engaged in developing incentives and economic development strategies for business to hire, train, and provide "living wage" employment for people living on a low-income
- 3.4 (b) Business, labor, educational institutions, and workforce development organizations all collaborate to create education and skill development opportunities for low-income employees

#### Definition of Poverty:

Poverty is defined as having insufficient income and resources to meet basic needs. It should be measured using an economic sufficiency standard based on the actual cost of living in Multnomah County.

#### Living Wage:

'Living Wage' is defined as the 'wage that allows families to meet basic needs without resorting to public assistance and provides them some ability to deal with emergencies and plan ahead. It is not a poverty wage.' The 'Living Wage' standard was described in the Northwest Job Gap Study - 2001, a research collaboration based at the University of Washington. 'Living' wages are calculated on basis of family budgets for several household types and include basic necessities such as food, housing, utilities, transportation, health care, child care, and so forth. The measure also accommodates the family's capacity to accumulate personal savings and pay all tax indebtedness. For updated living wage figures, please visit [www.ourcommission.org/poverty](http://www.ourcommission.org/poverty).

#### Implementation Planning

Multnomah County will take a lead role in creating the collaborations that will make this Framework a reality. State government, local governments, non-profit providers, advocates, and the business community will all be recruited as key partners in implementation planning.