



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST (revised 09/22/08)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 5/5/11
Agenda Item #: UC.1
Est. Start Time: n/a
Date Submitted: 5/4/11

Agenda Title: Resolution Opposing Proposed Changes in the State Legislature to the TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) Program

Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested Meeting Date: 5/5/11 **Amount of Time Needed:** 5 minutes
Department: District 1 – Commissioner Kafoury **Division:** Non-Dept.
Contact(s): Beckie Lee
Phone: 988-6796 **Ext.** 86796 **I/O Address:** 503/6th
Presenter(s): Deborah Kafoury

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Adopt a resolution supporting opposing proposed cuts to the TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) Program.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

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. Oregon's TANF program currently provides cash assistance to 30,108 families (54,000 children), 8,353 of whom live in Multnomah County. 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.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

The fiscal impact of cutting TANF to Multnomah County is unknown at this time. Currently 8,353 families who live in Multnomah County receive TANF. Without these benefits, they will more heavily rely on Multnomah County's safety net services.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

N/A

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

Numerous citizen groups are opposing cuts to the TANF program.

Required Signature

**Elected Official or
Department/
Agency Director:**



Date: May 3, 2011
