



# Multnomah County 2012 State and Federal Legislative Agenda

REVISED - SEE HI-LITED AREAS

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- Support local control of taxes and revenues.
- Oppose legislation that preempts local authority.
- Support targeted budget cuts that minimize the impact on local programs and services.
- Support government transformation initiatives while ensuring local interests are protected.

## **State Legislative Agenda**

### **POLICY PRIORITIES**

#### **Court Facilities**

- Work with the Oregon Judicial Department to support funding for furnishings and technology for the East County Courthouse.
- Expand opportunities to fund county court facilities across Oregon.

#### **Early Learning Council**

- Work with the Governor and legislators to further develop and implement a more functional and accountable statewide system to coordinate early childhood services.

#### **Economic Development**

- Support the Oregon Investment Act, which will establish the Oregon Growth Fund that will redirect and amplify investment of Oregon Lottery dollars into new opportunities for local businesses.

#### **Elections**

- Work with legislators, the Secretary of State and election officials from other counties to craft necessary updates to statewide election law.

### Health

- Work with legislators and other partners to support appropriate legislation to implement health care transformation in Oregon. This includes ensuring that counties continue to have a voice as global budgets are developed, Coordinated Care Organization criteria are determined and metrics are identified.
- Promote public health policies that clarify clients' options for HIV testing.
- Explore options to reduce preventable deaths due to opioid overdoses.

### Human Trafficking

- Support legislation to allow the expungement of juvenile prostitution convictions.

### Revenue

- Preserve counties' share of state liquor, lottery and tobacco revenues which help fund local public safety, healthcare and other essential services.

### Taxation and Assessment

- Support amending state law to address concerns about the Senior Property Tax Deferral Program, including issues with reverse mortgages.

### Wapato Jail Facility

- Explore local, state and federal opportunities for the sale or lease of Wapato Jail.

## **BUDGET PRIORITIES**

### Health

- Adult Dental: Maintain funding for county dental clinics.
- STD/HIV: Maintain funding for syringe exchange, disease surveillance, community-based STD/HIV/HCV testing and STD clinical services.
- Communicable Disease Services: Maintain funding to support the school exclusion process for immunizations, maintain Hepatitis C surveillance, and maintain a safe vaccine supply and access to TB medications and diagnostic services.
- Healthy Start/Healthy Families: Maintain funding to screen first-time parents at hospitals for risk factors and provide home visiting services to children at risk.

### Human Services

- Mental Health: Maintain current funding for critical crisis safety net services.
- Seniors: Maintain funding for core services such as Oregon Project Independence, home delivered meals, and adult day services. Preserve staffing levels for eligibility workers.
- Developmentally Disabled: Maintain appropriate ratio of case managers to clients.
- Families: Restore Emergency Relief Daycare (ERDC) funding for low-income people. Maintain/restore TANF funding levels.

### Public Safety

- Corrections: Protect community corrections' funding levels.
- Gang Intervention: Preserve and enhance funding for critical gang intervention programs, including the East Multnomah County Gang Enforcement Program.
- Juvenile Services. Preserve funding for Diversion and Basic services in order to safely manage juvenile offenders in the local community.

### Transportation

- Sellwood Bridge: Secure unspent Jobs and Transportation Act (JTA) funds for the Highway 43 portion of the Sellwood Bridge Replacement Project.

# Federal Legislative Agenda

## **POLICY PRIORITIES**

**Promote a balanced approach to deficit reduction.** Protect county programs during budget deficit reduction, sequestration and appropriation considerations. A proper balance includes looking at discretionary, defense and entitlement spending, and revenue enhancements.

**Work to eliminate the federal health benefits "inmate exception" for persons in county jails and detention centers who are in custody pending disposition of charges.** County governments are prohibited by law from billing federal programs for the health services provided to jail inmates prior to adjudication. Multnomah County supports federal legislation that would repeal the inmate exception for those in custody pending disposition of charges.

**Support key nutrition and food system programs in upcoming Farm Bill reauthorization.** Congress is scheduled to reauthorize the farm bill in 2012, an omnibus bill that sets agriculture and food policy for the next five years. Included in the bill are two federal nutrition programs --- the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Multnomah County supports opportunities to strengthen federal nutrition programs and policies to support local food systems.

**Support Legislation that accelerates deployment of electric vehicles.** Multnomah County stands in a position to reap significant economic benefits by building on the electric vehicle cluster that has formed in the region. The County supports legislation that accelerates the deployment of electric vehicles and infrastructure in Oregon as well as federal programs that would generate federal funding partnerships for for-profit and non-profit electric vehicle related research and development.

**Support Transportation Reauthorization; ensure funding for maintenance and operation of bridges.** The proposed Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill, MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century), consolidates transportation funding sources. The bill also sets performance standards to measure progress and sets a minimum spending level for certain types of projects, particularly bridge and pavement conditions. Multnomah County wants to ensure that the National Highway and Transportation Mobility programs operate in a manner that does not adversely affect the county's bridge funding.

**Support legislation to combat human trafficking.** Multnomah County supports two bills that would combat sex trafficking and assist victims. These bills include S.596, the

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act, introduced by Senator Wyden, which establishes a grant program to benefit victims of sex trafficking and S.1301, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization, introduced by Senator Patrick Leahy, which authorizes the appropriation of funds for anti-trafficking programs.

**Maintain the original federal-state-local partnership for financing and delivering Medicaid and social services** and oppose measures that will shift Medicaid and social service costs to counties.

### **FEDERAL FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS**

- **Health Care Transformation:** The Tri-County Medicaid Collaborative (TCMC) is submitting a Health Care Innovation Challenge grant application for \$30 million. The TCMC is currently comprised of Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas Counties, the safety net community, four area hospitals and CareOregon. TCMC plans to build a coordinated, effective, and sustainable health care delivery system for Medicaid clients and dually-eligible individuals. The County supports this joint effort and will advocate for funding with the Administration.
- **Southeast Clinic Expansion.** The Capital Development Building Capacity Program grant will allow the Health Department to improve its facilities and expand services at its Southeast Clinic. The addition of primary care services to the Southeast Clinic would greatly increase access to health care **for underserved populations** as well as increasing capacity throughout the county's safety net system. The County will pursue federal discretionary funding for this project.
- **Community Transformation.** The Prevention and Public Health Fund has received the full \$1 billion authorized by the Affordable Care Act. Although the grants have not been specified, this is another opportunity for the Health Department to obtain **funding for critical health related** projects.
- **Financial and Elder Abuse Prosecution Project.** As seniors live longer, they become increasingly vulnerable to financial manipulation, abuse and neglect. It is estimated that for every one case of elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, or self-neglect reported to authorities, approximately five go unreported. Multnomah County will continue to seek grant opportunities from the Department of Justice to address financial and elder abuse.

### **BLOCK GRANTS**

Multnomah County supports annual funding in the following areas to support the community and safety net services vital to our residents. Recent cuts to these programs have had a devastating effect on our most vulnerable populations.

**Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)**

CDBG funds public facility improvements, public services, and housing rehabilitation for East County cities. This funding has allowed Multnomah County to support projects that help stabilize low-income communities by improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods.

**Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**

CSBG funds are dedicated to legislatively mandated community action agencies. Funds must be used to support work in one of two areas – easing the experience of those living in poverty and ending the conditions that cause poverty. Funds are used to support the work of the Commission on Children Families and the system of anti-poverty providers linked to our SUN Service System.

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).**

LIHEAP assists low-income households, particularly those that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy in meeting their immediate home energy needs.