

# **2010-2011 Fiscal Year Budget Recommendations**

## **Central Citizens Budget Advisory Committee**

### **May 2010**

The Central Citizen's Budget Advisory Committee (CCBAC) has members from each of the department Citizen's Budget Advisory Committees (CBACs) and is chaired by a member of the Multnomah County Citizen Involvement Committee. The CCBAC met several times with Chair Wheeler to share possible savings ideas as well as Interim Chair Jana McLellan and Marissa Madrigal from Chair Cogen's Office. Many of these have been included in the Executive Budget. A briefing on the Administrative Review and Business Reengineering Project was also included in the committee's schedule.

All of the CBACs have worked hard this year advising their departments on how to provide solid services with much less. CBACs will be sharing their individual committee recommendations with you during the scheduled work sessions. Their written reports have been forwarded to you and are also posted on the Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC) web site.

As the CCBAC we are focused on providing county-wide recommendations to you. We recommend the following.

- Due to the sad state of the economy our residents need more services and the numbers of those without basic needs are increasing. We need to place more emphasis on helping clients help themselves:
  - Encourage cooperation between departments, business, community organizations and faith-based groups to do this
    - Have specific guidelines in place to insure the proper intent and outcome
    - Look at creating a centralized position in the county to promote these partnerships.
  - Include the county in teaching ways our residents could help themselves
    - Healthcare, alternative healing classes, weight loss support groups
    - Self-sustainable practices such as: gardening, canning, budgeting, sewing, cooking classes, etc.
    - Coupon clipping and saving money
    - Libraries, health clinics, all public access points that the county has should be stocked with this kind of information
    - Create PSAs to get the word out about where to find such information.
  - Look for ways to increase access to food
- Encourage the sense of community:
  - Consider a community wide forum to discuss needs and resources.
  - Encourage neighbors to meet neighbors, barbecues, etc.
  - Encourage Big-Sister, Big-Brother, and Adopt-a-Grandparent relationships

- Taking a percentage across the board is not going to work for much longer. Look at what is mandated and fund those items first. We need to take care of our core services.
  - Make sure the programs that are funded are ones that actually have proven results – what is the return on investment?
  - Encourage or reward those who “think outside the box” to streamline, cut costs or create ways to preserve or replace services.
- Encourage revenue opportunities rather than just providing services.
- Speed up the planning process for business so they start contributing sooner.
- Look for ways to change the environment in the community so that our offenders are not punished forever.
- Continue to encourage volunteering with the County.
  - Retirees are a great resource
  - Use volunteer experts to teach the classes noted above.
- Let’s get the East County Justice Center moving.

Several of our recommendations from last year still stand. These include:

- 1) All measures that will save jobs and programs should be seriously considered. These include: a) wage freezes across the board; b) furloughs - one day a month or more if necessary; c) getting out of underused buildings; d) commend local 88 for stepping up - encourage the remaining unions to do the same; and e) early retirement incentives.
- 2) Continue to encourage cross-jurisdictional co-operation and responsibility. The CCBAC would like to see more of this.
- 3) Support the analysis of internal services cost model/structure --- put an end to the surprise increases just as budgets are almost due --- there has to be a better method
- 4) Continue to look for cross-departmental cooperation and connections.

I’d like to thank the CBAC committee members, especially the Central CBAC representatives who put in double duty, for all the time and care they put into this effort. We all thank you for the opportunity to participate and provide our recommendations on behalf of the citizenry. Our thanks as well to the department representatives and the Citizen Involvement staff who keep us afloat through the annual budget process.

Sincerely,

  
 Brad McLean, Chair, Central CBAC