

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

PROCLAMATION NO. 2024-101

Proclaiming December 1, 2024 as World AIDS Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. World AIDS Day is recognized each year on December 1st. It brings attention to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) epidemic, to increase HIV awareness and knowledge, and to stand with people experiencing stigma related to their HIV status. World AIDS Day is an opportunity for remembering all those we have lost, honoring those who fought (and continue to fight) for just access to prevention, treatment, and care, and commit to continuing the progress that our communities need and deserve. The 2024 World AIDS Day theme is “Collective Action: Sustain and Accelerate HIV Progress”.
- B. For the past 30 years, Multnomah County has engaged in collective action and progress by partnering with the Portland Area HIV Services Planning Council to oversee a network of care for low-income people living with HIV across a 6-county region. This includes the counties of Clackamas, Columbia, Washington, Yamhill, and Clark (in WA state). The Planning Council is a 30-member community-led group of people with lived experience, community advocates, and service providers. Over 40% of Council members are people living with HIV. This diverse group is committed to ensuring that community voices are centered in regional HIV service decision-making.
- C. At all levels, there is progress to celebrate. Nationally and in Oregon, the overall number of new HIV cases has decreased since 2018. In 2022, about 90% of Oregonians with HIV were in care, and over 3 in 4 clients were virally suppressed. Regional data show even higher rates for those in Multnomah and our 6-county region. These are outstanding achievements, and are a testament to our local HIV service system, partners, and advocates. And there is still much work to be done.
- D. People of color, youth, and trans women experience a disproportionate burden of new HIV and AIDS cases. The most recent national data (2018-2022) show that Black/African American people make up 12% of the US population, but 37% of all new HIV cases. Similarly, Hispanic/Latino people make up 18% of the US population and 33% of all new HIV cases nationally. Both racial groups are overrepresented in the national HIV incidence when compared to the total population. About 40% of all new cases were among people aged 25-34. In 2022, about 43% of new cases in Oregon were among Black, Indigenous, and other people of color. Women and transgender people are also overrepresented

among new cases. While trans women represent 2% of existing cases in the 6-county Portland TGA, they represent 9% of new cases in 2023. More tailored programs, representative staff, and engagement with these community members is critical.

- E. Multnomah County also supports the collective action theme through its commitment to implementing the “End HIV in Oregon Strategy” that includes three key points: 1) Testing is easy, 2) Prevention works, and 3) Treatment saves lives. An integrated community approach is critical to address these disparities as the concurrent public health crisis of racism continues to impact our most vulnerable populations.
- F. Multnomah County affirms our commitment to the health, wellbeing, and safety of people in our community living with HIV and AIDS through services and programs offered across County departments. The Health Services Center is a critical medical provider for people living with HIV or AIDS in the region, and the Behavioral Health Division’s Promoting Access To Hope program helps ensure substance use treatment support for vulnerable residents with co-occurring conditions. Additional community partners supporting this work include Cascade AIDS Project; Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s HIV Day Center; Quest Center for Integrative Health; OHSU: Partnership Project, Russell Street Dental Clinic, and Internal Medicine Clinic; Oregon Health Authority; HIV Alliance; Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living; Oregon AIDS Education and Training Center and others.
- G. Multnomah County is fortunate to honor all of our siblings, neighbors, friends and family with HIV through an ongoing display of two panels of the historic National AIDS Quilt at the Gladys McCoy Building and the Multnomah County East Building lobby. The AIDS Quilt is a hand-made and community led commemoration of the resilient community members who fought bravely against a complex disease. Their ongoing presence in these public spaces serve as a daily reminder of collective remembrance, honoring, and action.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

In observance of Annual World AIDS Day on December 1, 2024, in Multnomah County, Oregon, we reaffirm our support for people living with and affected by HIV, and remember those community members who have lost their lives to AIDS.


ADOPTED this 21st day of November 2024.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jesse Beason, Vice Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Rachael Banks, Health Department Director