

Division: Nondepartmental - All Other

Program Characteristics:

Program Description

The Oregon Historical Society (OHS) operates the Oregon Historical Society Museum, Research Library, and educational programs for adults, families, and school groups. OHS also serves as the Multnomah County history repository. The Multnomah County OHS Levy, which has been repeatedly approved by local voters, provides basic operational support for core programs, including exhibit series, statewide education programs, public programs, Digital Collections website and online digital history resources like The Oregon Encyclopedia, research library services, and collections development and care. Funding also enables free museum admission to residents of Multnomah County. OHS is committed to serving the diverse communities of Multnomah County and the State of Oregon, and it reflects that commitment in every aspect of its operations.

Four East Multnomah County historical societies-- East County Historical Organization, Gresham Historical Society, Troutdale Historical Society, and Crown Point Country Historical Society—together, will receive no less than \$280,000 annually from the levy proceeds. These funds are critical to the continued operation of these four organizations. The levy allocates the balance, estimated at \$3.9 million in FY 2025-26 to OHS for its programs and operations.

In 2025 the OHS website (www.ohs.org), was visited by almost 300,000 viewers. The Oregon Encyclopedia had 1.3 million pageviews by 956,000 users, an estimated one third of which are students and educators. Additionally, 2,000 educators around the state received our educator e-blasts, 21,000 subscribers received our weekly e-digests, and our social media pages had over 49,400 followers. Plus, 4,800 copies of the Oregon Historical Quarterly were mailed to subscribers, and it was available to countless students and patrons at academic and public libraries, as well as online.

Equity Statement

Services in this program are delivered uniformly to all customers and welcome all communities. The OHS program funds the maintenance of a museum and public research library in downtown Portland, preserving the largest collection of historical materials about the State of Oregon, providing information/programming on the people, places, and events that shaped the State of Oregon.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	2026 General Fund	2026 Other Funds	2027 General Fund	2027 Other Funds
Contractual Services	\$0	\$3,815,422	\$0	\$3,948,386
Internal Services	\$0	\$29,000	\$0	\$29,000
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$3,844,422	\$0	\$3,977,386
Total Expenses:	\$3,844,422		\$3,977,386	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Taxes	\$0	\$3,818,421	\$0	\$3,950,000
Interest	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Beginning Working Capital	\$0	\$21,001	\$0	\$22,386
Total Revenue	\$0	\$3,844,422	\$0	\$3,977,386

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY25 Actual	FY26 Estimate	FY27 Target
Multnomah County residents admitted free of charge	15,392	16,500	17,200
Increased number of public programs	30	30	30