

Department: Sheriff **Program Contact:** Chris Liedle
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

The Communications Unit is a bridge between the Sheriff’s Office and the public, connecting, engaging and empowering members, residents, communities, the intergovernmental arena and the media alike in Multnomah County and beyond. The Communications team works around the clock to provide critical, accurate, time-sensitive information necessary for the public to make informed, sometimes life-saving decisions, shares and publishes agency news and events to increase community and membership engagement, works professionally and effectively with the media and furthers transparency by facilitating public records. The Communications team uses tact and self-awareness to develop communications for diverse audiences and continuously reviews and evaluates communications strategies for optimized performance.

Program Summary

The Communications Unit provides critical, accurate, time-sensitive information necessary for the public to make informed, sometimes life-saving decisions and shares and publishes agency news and events to increase community and membership engagement and understanding of public safety. The Communications Unit also oversees a team of Public Information Officers, who deliver vital information to the public during an emergency or crisis, such as a natural disaster or criminal investigation.

The Communications Unit produces public relations and marketing content, such as social media posts, press releases, infographics, photos and videos, and manages the agency’s internal and external facing webpages, social media accounts and Sheriff’s video projects, among many other tools, to effectively and creatively communicate Sheriff’s Office activities to diverse audiences through numerous methods. The Communications Unit is responsible for developing, implementing and managing the agency’s internal and external communications strategies, and continuously monitoring and evaluating such strategies to improve reach and engagement.

The Communications Unit maintains the agency’s public standing by working professionally and effectively with its media and community partners, and collaborating with intergovernmental partners and community organizations to create public safety, health and wellness messaging campaigns, coordinating community outreach opportunities and elevating direct messaging from the Sheriff. The Communications Unit furthers agency transparency by facilitating a high volume of public records requests.

As the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office has grown, and its scope of services expanded, so too has the challenge of maintaining a shared organizational direction. Critical to MCSO’s success, is that all members of its diverse workforce feel heard and are heard, and that member ideas continue to drive the success of the agency.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budgeted	FY22 Estimate	FY23 Offer
Output	Social media posts	981	1,800	1,116	1,200
Outcome	Social media post engagements	1,908,000	200,000	184,180	215,000
Outcome	Communications development projects	N/A	3	3	3

Performance Measures Descriptions

The Communications Unit identified three projects for FY 2022: 1) add alternative-text (alt-text) to visual content shared on social media when possible, 2) overhaul MCSO’s internal webpages to develop more reliable internal communication and increase engagement among staff across all divisions, and 3) develop a long-term, internal communication strategy in collaboration with MCSO’s Equity & Inclusion Team.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2022	2022	2023	2023
Personnel	\$311,637	\$0	\$345,243	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$39,500	\$0	\$39,500	\$0
Internal Services	\$1,300	\$0	\$9,204	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$352,437	\$0	\$393,947	\$0
Program Total:	\$352,437		\$393,947	
Program FTE	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2022: 60130 Communications Unit

The Communications Unit hired two additional professionals to focus on internal and external strategies. Clear, effective, and inclusive communication better connects with our members and community ensuring access to vital administrative, emergency, and general information. Along with our general forms of communication (social media, website, email, etc.), MCSO added radio and billboard platforms for marketing/recruiting. Finally, MCSO Communications was responsible for the national communications platform of the Major County Sheriff's Association.