

Department: County Human Services

Program Contact: Mary Li

Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program

Program Offer Stage: As Adopted

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

The pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated the economic inequities that Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities experience. Systems, structures, and institutions create barriers to BIPOC families' ability to achieve long term economic equity. The Economic Justice Project (EJP) will identify innovative and comprehensive approaches that support economic stability, build financial assets, and grow generational wealth by removing barriers, focusing on upstream intervention, and centering racial justice and equity. A report recommending future strategic action and investment will be developed through documenting promising practice research, current county investment, and design process practices.

Program Summary

Issue: The pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated the economic inequities that Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities experience. A number of systemic structures are barriers to these communities achieving economic security, including: the lack of an ITIN number; insurmountable debt resulting from accumulated fines and fees; or, having a felony that makes it difficult to acquire housing and credit.

People living on a low income face innumerable barriers to improving their economic situation - barriers that can leave them trapped or even pull them further into poverty. Many of these barriers are procedural, and can be removed at relatively low cost, unlocking income and other opportunities that would not otherwise be available. There are upstream interventions that yield meaningful results in helping people achieve economic equity.

Program Goal: Identify innovative and comprehensive approaches that support economic stability, build financial assets, and grow generational wealth by removing barriers; focusing on upstream intervention; and, centering racial justice and equity. Use this information to create a blueprint for economic justice for BIPOC families and communities in Multnomah County.

Program Activities: This project provides funding for a staff position to conduct community verified research, coordinate design processes meant to educate and engage with a wide variety of community members, and produce a final report with strategic and innovative recommendations for FY 2024 action and implementation (economic blueprint).

This project will build off existing County investments to continue developing the pathway to economic justice for residents, especially those most impacted by historic inequities and racially biased policies. The position will work with the Chair and Commissioners' offices, County departments, community members, and partner organizations to create the blueprint.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budgeted	FY22 Estimate	FY23 Offer
Output	Report recommending future strategic action and investment in service to economic justice in the County.	N/A	N/A	N/A	1
Outcome	Chair and Board of Commissioners adopts the report and commits to implementing recommendations in FY 2024.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes

Performance Measures Descriptions

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2022	2022	2023	2023
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$117,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$117,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$117,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: