

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted
Related Programs: 10095
Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

This offer funds a Wood Stove Replacement Program for Multnomah County. The program exchanges wood stoves for new furnaces or heat pumps. This program impacts air quality, health and climate change. The offer is for 2.00 LDA staff to build and carry out the program. Funding for equipment and installation will come from American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds originally given to the Office of Sustainability. This program is modeled after a similar successful effort in Washington County.

Program Summary

ISSUE: Clean air greatly affects the health and safety of people who live in Multnomah County. Smoke from burning wood to heat homes is a major cause of air pollution. Higher levels of wood smoke in the air have been connected to higher levels of sickness like heart and lung illnesses. Also, breathing wood smoke increases the chances of dying from COVID-19.

Wood smoke pollution is an environmental justice issue or Black, Indigenous and other People of Color. Black, Latinx and Indigenous people also have higher rates of asthma than other groups. Reducing wood smoke would benefit these groups. It is also a way for the county to have a positive effect on the heat problems we face due to climate change and on the lives of all people in the county.

PROGRAM GOAL: Improve the environment and lives of people in Multnomah County by providing more efficient heating that will reduce air pollution and result in better health of 1) those living in the homes with new heating, 2) those living in nearby areas, 3) BIPOC people who experience more pollution and higher rates of lung problems and 4) the county as a whole.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: The Wood Stove Replacement Program will provide a woodstove exchange program. Households can replace an old wood stove, fireplace or fireplace insert with a cleaner, more efficient option such as a new furnace or a heat pump. People who use wood as their main source of heat would receive the new heating. The program includes 2.00 LDA staff to carry out the program including reaching out to people heating with wood, signing them up, doing inspections and managing contracts to do the replacement work. Funding for equipment and installation will come from state ARP funds originally given to the Office of Sustainability. In addition, a small fund of client assistance is included to help support the change and pay for higher electric bills. This program is modeled after a similar successful effort in Washington County.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budgeted	FY22 Estimate	FY23 Offer
Output	Number of wood stoves replaced	N/A	N/A	N/A	100
Outcome	Wood stove replacement project plan completed and implemented	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Revenue/Expense Detail

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Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was:

This program funds two limited duration positions.