

Program #15105 - Misdemeanor Trial Unit
FY 2026 Proposed
Department: District Attorney

Program Contact: Amanda Nadell

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Proposed

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:
Program Description

Attorneys assigned to the Misdemeanor Trial Unit (MTU) review all non-domestic violence misdemeanor charges referred to MCDA and determine whether or not to initiate prosecution. On average this is about 550 cases per month. In addition, MTU DDAs prepare cases for trial and represent the State in misdemeanor jury and bench trials. Deputy District Attorneys (DDAs) also appear in court on plea entries, sentencing, probation violation hearings, release hearings, and restitution hearings. All cases in the MTU are presumed to be trials, and for this reason, DDAs have to verify all discovery obligations are met, extend pretrial plea offers to the defense, subpoena all necessary witnesses, prepare direct and cross-examination, assemble all evidence and confer with victims on all cases. MTU DDAs must review, research, and respond to all written motions as part of trial preparation. All cases involving officer-initiated contact or use of force are also double screened to promote greater equity in these areas of policing and prosecution.

Many misdemeanor cases resolve in one of the specialty courts staffed by the MTU with thousands of cases processed each year. A large number of misdemeanor cases involve allegations of Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUI), and specialty DUI Diversion and Expedited DUI dockets are staffed by MTU DDAs each week. Post House Bill 4002, MTU DDAs handle the prosecution of misdemeanor drug cases, including identifying cases that qualify for conditional discharge. Data shows Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color (BIPOC) are traditionally overrepresented within the criminal justice system in the arrest and prosecution of low-level drug, transportation, property, and public order offenses. MCDA's MTU works to achieve greater equity through an ongoing commitment to alternative disposition for these types of offenses.

The East County Courthouse is staffed by a MTU DDA who is responsible for all misdemeanor trials at that location, as well as staffing the DUI Diversion and Expedited DUI dockets.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Misdemeanor cases set for trial resolved	1447	1100	1000	1000
Outcome	Misdemeanor cases offered specialty court diversion	224	225	84	100
Output	Percent of issued misdemeanor cases disposed of within 90 days.	20%	20%	20%	20%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Legal / Contractual Obligation

ORS 8.665 Prosecuting violations. Upon the issuance of a citation by any person authorized to issue citations for violations, a district attorney shall prosecute the case if it appears that a violation has occurred.

ORS 8.660 Attending court and prosecuting offenses. (1) The district attorney shall attend the terms of all courts having jurisdiction of public offenses within the district attorney's county, and, except as otherwise provided in this section, conduct, on behalf of the state, all prosecutions for such offenses therein.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Personnel	\$2,833,706	\$210,164	\$3,109,757	\$0
Contractual Services	\$78,000	\$0	\$79,900	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$57,000	\$0	\$23,000	\$0
Internal Services	\$644,421	\$90,044	\$30,535	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$3,613,127	\$300,208	\$3,243,192	\$0
Program Total:	\$3,913,335		\$3,243,192	
Program FTE	15.50	1.00	16.50	0.00

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

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2025: 15105 Misdemeanor Trial Unit

Eliminated the Pretrial Unit (PO 15204) and merged 5.05 FTE from Pretrial to the Misdemeanor Trial Unit.
To better align with operations, moved the Metro SHS funded 1.00 FTE from the Misdemeanor Trial Unit to the MCDA Attorney Access Program (MAAP) (PO 15207),