

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-067

Resolution Reaffirming and Strengthening the County's Sanctuary Status, Actions, and Advocacy.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. Multnomah County rejects the blatant xenophobic rhetoric, tactics and fearmongering meant to divide our communities on the basis of place of birth. We remain committed to supporting all those who live here and who are working to make Multnomah County thrive.
- B. Generations of immigrants from all corners of the globe have been essential to this country's economic and cultural strength and resilience. Whether they arrived centuries ago or more recently, immigrants have helped build our infrastructure, fuel innovation, and create our prosperity. Immigrants contribute to Multnomah County's economy, agriculture, cuisine, and health care; they run political organizations, start and operate businesses, employ hundreds of thousands of Oregonians, and represent us at almost every level of elected office.
- C. Every person deserves to be free of fear and intimidation, the right to due process, and to be treated with dignity and respect regardless of their status in the United States.
- D. Multnomah County is home to individuals who represent a wide diversity of races, ethnicities, and nationalities, including immigrants and refugees from all over the world.
- E. Across the nation, recent political events have continued to spur and build a climate of xenophobia, racism, hatred, bigotry, and discrimination toward many in our communities. People have expressed fears regarding their ability to access Multnomah County government services and properties such as, but not limited to, our courthouses, health clinics, libraries, homeless shelters, domestic violence services, jails, and SUN school programming.
- F. Federal immigration enforcement presence outside of County buildings and program locations, and attempts to enter those spaces, have disrupted community members' access to services and programs and County staff from providing services. The deterioration of trust in one aspect of government and active hostility jeopardizes trust in other aspects of government, including the provision of other County services.

- G. The integrity of Multnomah County's sanctuary status commitment requires action, continuous efforts, training, and institutional alignment with the County's core values of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- H. Oregon became the first Sanctuary State in 1987 and has continued to strengthen its sanctuary laws, most recently through the 2021 Sanctuary Promise Act (HB 3265), which reinforces Oregon's commitment to protecting immigrant and refugee communities through (ORS 181A.820), which prohibits the use of public resources for the enforcement of federal immigration law.
- I. On December 22, 2016, Multnomah County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution ([2016-132](#)) reaffirming Multnomah County's sanctuary status and ensuring continued access to County resources and services regardless of immigration status.
- J. On January 20, 2025 the Trump Administration rescinded an October 2021 U.S. Department of Homeland Security policy memo that protected spaces such as schools, houses of worship, and hospitals from immigration enforcement, replacing it with a directive to sow fear and terror in communities by giving Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents authority to take enforcement actions in any of these spaces.
- K. The federal administration has made sweeping changes to immigration policies such as revoking access to social services and work visas, ending safety net programs, and eroding due process for immigrant and refugee community members.
- L. Recent federal legislation signed by President Donald Trump significantly expands civil immigration enforcement and detention practices that undermine community trust. Additionally, President Trump has continued to threaten the unconstitutional deployment of the National Guard to further target sanctuary jurisdictions including Portland.
- M. Reported and alleged conduct of ICE agents includes: arresting and detaining individuals without affording due process rights; refusing to share information about the reason for an individual's arrest or the location where an individual will be detained; wearing masks and refusing to provide identification; injuring community members and destroying property, and; questioning residents and visitors about their immigration status based on their race, ethnicity, language, accent, occupation, or presence at certain locations, such as day-labor sites, bus stops, car washes, and parking lots. These actions cause community-wide trauma and damage.

- N. Keeping families together, and children protected and safe is a fundamental value for Multnomah County. Mass deportation and revoking status efforts, especially without due process, threaten the well-being of Multnomah County families and neighborhoods, harm vulnerable populations, cause economic pain and hardship, and interfere with businesses and day-to-day life across the County.
- O. On October 28, 2025, at the direction of the Chair, Multnomah County moved to Partial Activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to ensure the coordination of operations between County offices and departments, promote alignment on internal and external communications, and further the role that Multnomah County has to leverage, coordinate, and deploy critical resources in response to federal policies and actions.
- P. On November 18, 2025, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners received a briefing on the County's existing sanctuary status resolution and an update on actions and examples from other local jurisdictions. The Board provided direction to support a clear set of actions in the form of a Resolution, Budget Modification to allocate funds, and an Ordinance to codify certain provisions into County code.
- Q. In the wake of unconstitutional and unlawful federal immigration policies and practices that have generated fear and anxiety among members of the County's many communities, it is necessary to do more.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves to:

- 1. Reaffirm and declare its commitment to equity and respect for all community members by ensuring and affirming they are able to continue accessing County resources and services regardless of their immigration status.
- 2. Encourage the continued work of the Office of Government Relations to advocate for the passage of federal legislation that would increase federal safeguards for respecting civil rights and protecting the public safety of our community along with identifying changes in policy that will impact the County and its immigrant and refugee community members.
- 3. Recognize the work initiated by the activation of the EOC and support the continued coordination of internal and external partners to share information, monitor federal enforcement actions, track changes in federal immigration policies, and incorporate feedback into existing programs to develop and maintain rapid response networks for communication, outreach, and community support.

4. Support the Chair in directing the Chief Financial Officer to work with internal partners to identify methods to provide flexibility (within existing contracts) to service providers regarding impacts such as, but not limited to, food access, basic services, and legal services. Impacted providers will be contacted, with relevant changes being incorporated no later than February 16, 2026. The goal is to address changing needs for affected families. All procurement and contract rules, conditions, and reporting requirements will be followed.
5. At the direction of the Chair, the Chief Operating Officer will report to the Board no later than February 16, 2026 on: specific actions that departments have implemented or may take to ensure that all residents can access necessary services and programs, regardless of immigration status; adjusting programs and services to meet community needs such as virtual options.
6. At the direction of the Chair, the Chief Operating Officer will report to the Board no later than February 25, 2026 on: specific actions the County is taking or evaluating to implement programs, policies, and resources that protect and support employees who are impacted by the federal immigration policies and enforcement.
7. At the direction of the Chair, the Chief Operating Officer will coordinate the drafting of an ordinance for Board review no later than February 25, 2026. The Board further requests a report on the implementation viability, cost, and timing of provisions including but not limited to:
 - A. Prohibition of County funds for aiding in the enforcement of federal immigration law.
 - B. Prohibition of all County departments and employees, including law enforcement, from assisting in or coordinating with federal agencies and military in actions intended to suppress lawful protest, peaceful assembly, or protected political expression.
 - C. Clarification on the steps that are taken with detainment and custody when interacting with federal immigration law enforcement, and the notification process for impacted individuals and their families.
 - D. Clarification of what areas are off limits to federal law enforcement officials without legal requirements being met, and a proposal to implement “restricted area” signage and training for County employees.
 - E. Clarification on how data on immigration status is currently stored, shared and disclosed to federal immigration officials. This includes an examination of existing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request systems, administrative subpoenas, or other non-judicial compulsory legal processes.

- F. A proposal for a routine and updated training on the County's Sanctuary status and individual rights that can be provided to County employees, contracted providers, and external community members.

ADOPTED this 18th day of December, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Jessica Vega Pederson

Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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By _____
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair
Shannon Singleton, Commissioner, District 2