

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-28

Resolution Amending the Public Contracting Review Board (PCRB) Rules to Allow for Greater Flexibility with the Construction Diversity Equity Fund

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. On March 18, 2018, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners adopted Public Contract Review Board (PCRB) Rule amendments to create County policy to ensure that County construction projects support a diverse local workforce and firms certified by the Oregon Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity (COBID-Certified Businesses). To support this policy, the County will set aside one percent (1%) of the County Construction Cost and one percent (1%) of other funds' Construction Costs (when permitted by other funding entities) into a Construction Diversity and Equity Fund (CDEF). In addition, any liquidated damages assessed by the County for Workforce Training & Hiring (WFTH) non-compliance on projects subject to the WFTH program shall be placed in the CDEF.
- B. CDEF promotes a local, diverse construction workforce and supports COBID-Certified Businesses in the construction industry by offering funding support for BOLI-approved pre-apprenticeship programs, workforce support services and retention programs, and technical assistance, mentoring, and training for COBID-Certified Businesses applied primarily by other COBID Certified-Businesses.
- C. Since the program's inception, the County has been a part of a regional collaborative system serving over 300 people annually through local pre-apprenticeship programs. In 2026 enrollment was 68% People of Color and 32% Female. Around 45 apprentices annually receive critical "wrap-around" support (rent, tools, utilities, childcare, etc.) which prevents attrition during industry layoffs and supports workers staying in and completing programs. Technical assistance is provided to around 50 COBID-Certified Businesses annually, helping them secure the proper training required to compete and manage County contracts. These businesses receiving support have reported a 9.3 out of 10 overall satisfaction rate.

- D. Jobs in the fields of construction, professional services and contracting are stable, family wage jobs, but as a result of a history of discrimination and other barriers, jobs in these fields have not been equally available to all people. Through CDEF, the County will have a consistent commitment to promoting and expanding a thriving, diverse, well-trained workforce in the construction trades and design and construction contractor pool.

- E. On May 31, 2019, the Multnomah County Board approved a budget that started the Labor Compliance Program to combat wage theft. Since then, the County has been working with volunteers to help enforce prevailing wage and wage and hour laws on County construction projects. Volunteers will have access to the certified payroll records that contractors submit to the County — and be allowed to visit worksites to interview workers. Information on this program is maintained on this County webpage. Multnomah County is the only public entity in the state with a Labor Compliance Program.

- F. In this current fiscal year, which started in July 2025, this program has conducted 26 site visit interviews, recovered \$27,660.86 in back wages and restitution for construction workers, and process refinements have allowed the team to identify 99 specific compliance concerns — ranging from a lack of certified payroll submissions as required by BOLI, to apprentice supervision and training concerns, and missed overtime. These findings led to 31 corrective meetings with contractors so far this year, resolving potential wage and safety issues before they could escalate.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves to:

The Board approves the amendments as identified in Exhibit A, which is attached, to PCRB Rule Division 60, Section 0060 Construction Diversity Equity Fund, to allow for CDEF to pay for program and actions that ensure that all workers on County projects are treated fairly, compensated according to required standards, and are provided a respectful work environment.

ADOPTED this 21st day of May, 2026.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair

REVIEWED:

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

By _____
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair