

Department: County Human Services

Program Contact: Rachel Pearl

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Proposed

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:
Executive Summary

Fair housing audit testing is a tool used to gauge housing discrimination. Locally, the City of Portland funds testing within city limits but Gresham, Fairview, Troutdale and Wood Village are outside the boundaries. This program will extend similar testing to areas in Multnomah County. It will provide insights into housing discrimination experienced by those classified as 'protected class' by the Fair Housing Act. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 considers protected classes to include discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, sex (and as amended) handicap and family status. The results can inform policies and ensure we can identify who is experiencing it, by whom, and that we end housing discrimination.

Program Description

ISSUE: Discrimination continues to prevent equal access to housing opportunities. Fair housing testing is a tool used to detect discrimination in the housing market. To test for discrimination, people from different backgrounds (different races, ages, abilities, etc.) pretend they will rent or buy a home. They document what information they are given by landlords, the bank, etc. Since the 'testers' have different backgrounds (race, age, ability, etc.) we can compare the information, services and treatment people in protected classes received to what those in non-protected classes received and look for patterns of different treatment in the housing market.

PROGRAM GOAL: Build on the City's fair housing testing and expand testing to include East Multnomah County, including Gresham, Fairview, Troutdale and Wood Village.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: This program will fund fair housing testing in East Multnomah County to better understand the level of discrimination in the housing market. The results can inform policies that work to eliminate and prevent housing discrimination.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budgeted	FY24 Estimate	FY25 Target
Output	Number of fair housing tests conducted in East Multnomah County	19	70	70	70
Outcome	Number of alleged housing discrimination investigations, advocacy & support conducted	17	25	25	25
Output	Number of Fair Housing training and outreach events for direct service staff	11	10	10	10

Performance Measures Descriptions

FY 22-23 Performance measures were low due to staffing challenges. Program reports increased staff capacity by February 2024.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2024	2024	2025	2025
Contractual Services	\$121,113	\$0	\$125,110	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$121,113	\$0	\$125,110	\$0
Program Total:	\$121,113		\$125,110	
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: FY 2024: 25134 YFS - Fair Housing Testing