

# FY 2009 Multnomah County Budget Process

## Budget Philosophy

The overall goals of the FY 2009 budget process are to provide the following for Multnomah County:

- Strategic direction;
- Fiscal stability;
- Administrative and organizational stability;
- A fair and inclusive process;
- A framework for focusing on major policy decisions; and
- A communication tool

## What is the FY 2009 Focus?

The FY 2009 budget will focus on the County's core mission while investing in long-term system improvements and cost-effective innovations. The "core mission" includes:

- A system of accountable human services
- A system of accountable public safety services
- Cost-effective early childhood and early intervention services, and
- Ongoing community obligations: libraries, fair elections, bridges, and roads, etc.

Each department will be given a financial target based on the FY 2009 Financial Forecast. In the fall, departments will review and prioritize existing operations, alternatives and new programs. In December, the Departments will report to the Chair on their preliminary strategies to meet their constraint. Following that discussion, program offers will be developed and submitted to the County Chair for consideration in three categories (1) offers that fall within the financial target, (2) offers that are outside of the financial target, and (3) offers for one time funding for new programs that provide cost savings or cost avoidance through innovative investments or process redesigns.

## Who Develops the Budget?

Departments will create an internal budget process which emphasizes:

- Department leadership and judgment;
- Consideration of Board policy direction;
- Employee involvement;
- Measurable results; and
- Clarity of expenditure and revenue assumptions.

Departments will consider "targeted areas" in which service reductions might be made. The Departmental budget teams will include a diverse group of representatives from a variety of levels of the organization, and, when appropriate, employees from other departments. The teams will advise the Director throughout the process, for example, reviewing program offers and the performance measures included within those offers, and generating suggestions on how to continue to improve the valuable work the



Department does and the services they provide. They will advise on how innovations in processes may provide long term savings. Team members must be able to think strategically and be able to balance programmatic expertise while wearing a “Department hat” and a “county hat”.

### **Public and Employee Input and Citizen Participation**

Public input is critical during the budget process and key to good public policy. Departments will continue to operate Citizen Budget Advisory Committees, composed of citizens very familiar with the goals and objectives of the Department. In addition to the employee input on the Departmental teams, union officials will meet monthly with the Chair and his staff to share their suggestions.

The Board of County Commissioners will continue to host public budget work sessions throughout the FY 2009 budget process. All meetings are open to the public and each session will provide opportunity for testimony. Information on these public involvement activities will be included in future emails and also on the web, through web links on the Multnomah County web and MINT sites. Everyone is encouraged to attend and/or participate.

### **FY 2009 Draft Basic Budget Calendar**

#### **Multnomah County**

*(September 28, 2007)*

<b>October</b>	Financial forecast assumptions reviewed with the Board of County Commissioners
<b>Nov 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Budget instructions released to departments
<b>December</b>	Preliminary departmental review with the Chair
<b>Feb 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Department program offers due to Budget Office
<b>March</b>	Program offers reviewed
<b>April 4<sup>th</sup></b>	County Chair executive decisions finalized
<b>May 8<sup>th</sup></b>	County Chair Executive Budget released and the Board of County Commissioners approves the budget
<b>June 12<sup>th</sup></b>	BCC adopts the FY 2009 Budget