

Department: Joint Office of Homeless Services **Program Contact:** Marc Jolin
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

With Metro Supportive Housing Services Measure (Measure) funding that is dedicated to reducing homelessness through strategies that lead with racial equity, this program offer allocates Measure funds to a proposed low-barrier employment initiative that would focus on creating limited-duration employment positions that support a range of COVID-19 recovery efforts, such as helping to improve public spaces by removing garbage, graffiti, and other discarded materials from spaces that have been impacted during the pandemic. The employment opportunities created by this initiative would be prioritized to extremely low-income and very low-income households disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and that have either lost or are at imminent risk of losing housing.

Program Summary

The Measure passed by voters in May of 2020 generates dedicated funding to significantly reduce homelessness in Multnomah County and the region. The Multnomah County Local Implementation Plan (LIP) for the Measure sets out a range of strategies to reduce homelessness by increasing permanent housing and wrap around services for those experiencing, or at risk of, chronic homelessness and episodic homelessness. The LIP strategies prioritize the A Home for Everyone and Measure commitment to eliminating racial disparities among people experiencing chronic and episodic homelessness. The LIP also recognizes that in this initial phase of Measure funding, there is a priority need to address the economic impact of COVID-19, which threatens to displace large numbers of disproportionately Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) households into homelessness and create additional barriers for people who are already homeless to return to housing.

This program offers one response to the economic impact of COVID-19, specifically the provision of low-barrier employment opportunities for people imminently at risk of or already experiencing homelessness. This low-barrier employment program would create limited duration jobs to help both the individuals and the community as a whole recover from the impact of COVID-19. Although further program development in partnership with community-based organizations serving the priority population will be needed, one model would employ individuals to assist with improving public spaces through carrying out regular trash pickup, graffiti abatement, removal of abandoned property, and other basic public space maintenance activities. This work could be carried out as an expansion of existing public space maintenance employment reentry programs, and/or in partnership with the network of community based organizations that offer both housing and workforce services, thereby creating access for employees to housing support services that they need.

As part of the LIP's COVID-19 response investments, this program would be designed to be of limited duration (1-3 years), unless and until a recommendation emerges through the forthcoming workforce planning processes for the Measure.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Number of people engaged in low-barrier employment	N/A	N/A	N/A	100
Outcome	Number of people obtaining or retaining housing	N/A	N/A	N/A	75
Outcome	BIPOC will gain employment at rates as high or higher than their representation in the priority population*	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes

Performance Measures Descriptions

*This equity measure aligns with the commitment that Metro Measure funds must be used to reduce disproportionately high rates of homelessness within BIPOC communities.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000,000
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000,000
Program Total:	\$0		\$3,000,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000,000

Explanation of Revenues

Metro Supportive Housing Services \$3,000,000

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: