

## **Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Council Application for Membership**

The Family Violence Coordinating Council (Council) was founded in 1987 to provide a multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction forum to increase the effectiveness of intervention and prevention of domestic violence in Multnomah County. The Council works to assure the safety, well-being, and stability of all members of families, especially women and children, in Multnomah County, by ending family violence. The Council focuses primarily on violence against former or current adult intimate partners.

The Council envisions a coordinated community response in which the victim, wherever she or he turns, is met with non-judgmental support, needed services, and safety. At the same time, wherever the perpetrator turns, he or she will be met with a strong statement that he or she must change the abusive behavior and make restitution to the victim. This coordinated community response includes the domestic violence response system and community and social systems. Health care, faith-based organizations, civic and social supports, employers, social services, families and neighbors can all contribute to the goal of ending domestic violence.

The Council shall seek members from public and private agencies working to eliminate or significantly reduce family violence in Multnomah County, and from organizations of individuals who are survivors of family violence, including but not limited to representation from the courts, law enforcement, corrections, the District Attorney, other agencies affiliated with the civil and criminal courts, batterer intervention providers, health care providers, social service agencies, elected officials, victims advocacy organizations, businesses, defense bar and Legal Aid Services.

**The Council's Mission** is to promote public policies and facilitate and coordinate public and private efforts to prevent, respond to, and end family violence in Multnomah County.

The Council has developed a perspective on domestic violence, as indicated in the following statement in the Operating Principles:

Family violence is emotional, physical, psychological abuse or neglect, or sexual abuse, or the threat thereof, perpetrated against a person by that person's family member, parent, child, spouse, former spouse, partner, former partner, or adult relative, or by the parent of their minor child. Abuse may include threats, harm, injury, harassment, exertion of power and control, terrorism, or damage to living beings or property. Family violence may be a single incident, ranging in intensity from harassment to homicide. Often it is a systematic pattern of abuse that usually escalates over time in frequency and severity. Family violence occurs between partners of the same and different sex. Overwhelmingly, victims of family violence are women abused by men. The Council's context is abuse that occurs in intimate partnerships between people of any age, and in other relationships between adults as described above. This context includes the effects of this violence on the community and on other family members, particularly children.

The Council's Vision, Values and Roles are listed in the attached Memorandum of Understanding.

**Qualification for membership**

Public and private agencies, which meet the following criteria, may request membership on the Council. To qualify for membership, an agency must:

1. Intervene in or work to prevent family violence or have significant direct contact with victims and/or perpetrators or that play a significant role in funding or public policy related to family violence intervention, agree with the mission and values of the Council;
2. Agree to attend meetings regularly; and
3. Sign the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in which the agency agrees to:
  - a. Support the Vision, Mission and Values as described in the Charter and Operating Principles;
  - b. Support the Council in its roles as described in the Charter and Operating Principles;
  - c. Participate fully in Council work as described in the Operating Principles and the Memorandum of Understanding and as approved by the FVCC.

Applicants should submit the attached application and any supporting documentation about their agency, accompanied by a letter of recommendation from a current Council member and a signed copy of the MOU.

**Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Council  
Membership Application Form**

To apply for membership in the Committee, complete the following (include additional pages or attachments, as necessary):

**Name of organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Describe how your agency meets the following criteria for membership:** It is a public and private agency working to eliminate or significantly reduce family violence in Multnomah County, or is an organization of individuals who are survivors of family violence.

**2. Describe how your agency demonstrates support for the Council's Vision, Mission, Values, and Roles as listed in the attached MOU.**

**3. Attach a letter of recommendation from a member in good standing.**

**Send your completed application by mail or email to Lee Watts, Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office, 421 SW Oak Street, Ste. 200, Portland, OR 97204 or [lee.watts@multco.us](mailto:lee.watts@multco.us) If you have questions, please contact Lee Watts at (503) 988-6576.**