

Department: Health Department

Program Contact: Richard Bruno

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Proposed

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Program Description

The Multnomah County Health Officer is the lead Health Officer and supervises a Multnomah County Deputy Health Officer and the Washington County Health Officer, and several on-call Deputy Health Officers. They work under the authority of the Local Public Health Administrator for the Local Public Health Authority. The program has agreements with Washington County and Clackamas County for the coordination of Health Officer activities across County borders, and use of the Tri-County Health Officer title when representing that cross jurisdictional coordinated work. The Health Officers provide physician authorization and clinical oversight for the full scope of Communicable Disease Services, including medical direction for the Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic, Harm Reduction Clinic, tuberculosis program, Environmental Health Food Service programs, and are a key physician subject matter expert spokespeople for the County. They close gaps in services, recent examples include H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza testing and prophylaxis, expanding naloxone availability, and rapid HIV testing. The Health Officers work alongside health department/county programs, leadership and community to assure resources are focused on addressing preventable deaths and disease in communities that experience the most protracted impact. They also offer a valuable perspective in the realm of local and state health policy that is prevention-focused and equity-based.

As a “physician ambassador” for the health department, the Health Officers play a key role—in coordination with the Health Department Director and Public Health Division Director—with media and regional communications about major public health concerns or initiatives. The health officer team convenes interest holders in areas of EMS (recently as part of the Ambulance Service Plan reassessment), opioid prevention & response (hosting the biannual Fentanyl Summit), regional respiratory pathogen coordination (monthly Health Systems calls with infectious disease and infection prevention & control staff), and emergency preparedness (annual Medical Reserve Corps conference).

Broadly speaking, the Health Officers (1) participate in enforcement of public health laws; (2) supervise select public health programs; (3) work with department staff, other county agencies, and community partners to manage critical public health problems; and (4) participate in department leadership team.

The Washington County contract funds their full-time health officer and a small portion of FTE for the Multnomah County Health Officer to cover supervisory and regional duties.

Total health officer FTE in Multnomah County has not changed in decades despite a growing population and increasing complexity of public health events, including but not limited to: pertussis, measles, Ebola/Marberg, extreme cold/heat, poor air quality, and the drug overdose crisis.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Contract deliverables are met by the end of fiscal year.	90%	90%	90%	90%
Outcome	County interest holders express satisfaction in program delivery and results	N/A	100%	100%	100%

Performance Measures Descriptions

The Tri-County Health Officer team is made up of health officers from Clackamas, Washington, and Multnomah Counties, and is aligned by the contracts held between each county. Those contract deliverables will be met by the end of FY26, resulting in satisfaction among county interest holders. Multnomah County will implement a survey of participants and planners of regional calls to measure satisfaction, with a goal of an average of 4 out of 5 points on a Likert scale.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

ORS 431.418 requires counties to employ or contract with a physician to serve as County Health Officer. Intergovernmental agreements with Clackamas and Washington counties specify Health Officer services that Multnomah County is required to provide as well as expected outcomes and evaluation measures.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Personnel	\$724,371	\$345,737	\$685,278	\$367,818
Materials & Supplies	\$48,446	\$10,308	\$49,754	\$10,308
Internal Services	\$103,139	\$51,499	\$109,142	\$57,674
Total GF/non-GF	\$875,956	\$407,544	\$844,174	\$435,800
Program Total:	\$1,283,500		\$1,279,974	
Program FTE	1.07	0.87	1.07	0.87

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$407,544	\$0	\$435,800
Total Revenue	\$0	\$407,544	\$0	\$435,800

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$57,674 in indirect revenues.

Washington county meets their ORS 431.418 requirements for health officer services through intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Multnomah County that they pay our actual expenses for those services. The Multnomah County Health Officer, and Deputy Health Officer are funded by Multnomah County general funds.

\$435,800 - Tri-County Health Officer Washington County

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2025: 40002 Tri-County Health Officer