

Program #40007 - Health Inspections and Education

FY 2026 Department Requested

Department: Health Department Program Contact: Jeff Martin

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Program Offer Type: Operating Program Offer Stage: Department Requested

Related Programs: 40008, 40010A

Program Characteristics:

Program Description

Health Inspections and Education (HIE) is a legally mandated, fee-supported program that protects the public from disease and injury by investigating food and waterborne disease; educating about food safety practices; and performing inspections of licensed facilities. The program goal is to ensure the safety of inspected facilities. HIE protects the health and safety of the entire community by providing education, assuring safe food and water, controlling disease, improving workplace safety, and reducing unintentional injuries. HIE achieves these goals through the following functions:

Facility Inspection – Facilities include: 4,835 restaurants, mobile restaurants, hotel/motels, RV parks, organizational camps, warehouses, commissaries, vending machines, and jails; 457 pools/spas; 1030 schools, childcare, adult foster care, and other service providers; and 50 small water systems (inspected every 3 to 5 years).

Foodborne Illness Outbreak Response and Complaints - Health inspectors investigate local foodborne illness in collaboration with Communicable Disease Services and are key participants in emergency response. HIE conducted 4 foodborne illnesses and 16 vibrio investigations in restaurants in the previous calendar year. In addition to those the program tracked 189 reports of illness and 339 complaints.

Food Handler Training and Certification – HIE provides online and in-person training about safe food preparation in 17 languages to food workers at all literacy levels to support health equity and entry into the workforce.

The Food Service Advisory Board, which consists of local food service industry representatives, county regulatory officials, consumers, educators, and dietitians, meets throughout the year to discuss program changes.

Performance Measures								
Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target			
Output	Number of licenses issued	6,648	7,343	6,916	7,611			
Outcome	Number of violations per year	13,757	8,338	13,792	14,301			
Output	Facility Inspections	12,258	14,968	12,251	17,378			
Output	Total number of certified Food Workers licensed by Multnomah County	15,926	14,450	16,189	16,504			

Performance Measures Descriptions

¹⁾ Measure excludes facilities inspected but not licensed. 2) Facility Violations (violations that will lead to a food borne illness or injury) are items noted during inspections that can directly affect the health of the consumer and require immediate correction. 3) Facilities inspected on-site (e.g. restaurants, mobile units, etc.). 4) Number of people who completed certification in the given year.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Legal mandates are 2009 FDA Food Code, 2012 OR Food Sanitation Rules; ORS Chapt. 30.890 (gleaning); ORS Chapt. 624; ORS Chapt. 448; MCC 21.612 (license fees); MCC Chapt. 5; MCC Chapt. 21 (Civil Penalty Ordinance); OR Dept. of Education Division 51 (Schools); OARS 581-051-0305; OARS Chapt. 333 (Licensed Programs); ORS 183 (Civil Penalty), ORS 164 (Food); ORS 700 (EHS License); ORS 414 (Childcare). OARS 333-018 Communicable Disease and Reporting 333-019 Communicable Disease Control.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Department Requested General Fund	Department Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Personnel	\$5,534,384	\$28,745	\$5,986,364	\$31,472
Contractual Services	\$503,857	\$0	\$514,919	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$162,577	\$1,213	\$159,568	\$1,585
Internal Services	\$1,059,406	\$5,015	\$1,172,700	\$4,935
Total GF/non-GF	\$7,260,224	\$34,973	\$7,833,551	\$37,992
Program Total:	\$7,295,197		\$7,871,543	
Program FTE	37.46	0.19	37.95	0.20

Program Revenues							
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$6,083,783	\$0	\$7,833,551	\$0			
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$34,973	\$0	\$37,992			
Total Revenue	\$6,083,783	\$34,973	\$7,833,551	\$37,992			

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$4,935 in indirect revenues.

Multnomah County Environmental Health receives \$37,993 of support each year from the State of Oregon-Drinking Water Section. This level of support continues to stay consistent. Money received from the state is used to pay for staff who work in the drinking water program performing sanitary surveys and responding to alerts.

\$37,992 Safe Drinking Water

\$159,925 HD Food Handlers \$7,673,626 in Licensing Fees

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2025: 40007A Health Inspections and Education

As part of the County's support of the community and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, license fees have been frozen since 2020. This was made possible through the availability of pandemic relief funds and County General Fund. After five years of deferred license fees — and subject to Board of Commissioners' approval— a fee increase of 33% is being proposed.