

Department: Health Department **Program Contact:** Jeff Martin

Program Offer Type: Operating **Program Offer Stage:** Adopted

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Vital Records program is a legislatively mandated, fee-supported program that issues birth and death certificates in accordance with federal and state statutes to maintain the integrity and accuracy of birth and death information. The program's goal is to accurately report birth and death certificates in Multnomah County in order to provide accurate data that is used to inform public health prevention and intervention activities. This goal supports achievement of positive health outcomes and equitable opportunities for health to all Multnomah County residents.

Program Description

The Vital Records program can issue birth and death certificates, six months after the date of the event, and within 24-hours of receipt of a request for certificate. The program assures accurate, timely, and confidential registration of birth and death events, minimizing the opportunity for identity theft, and assuring accurate record of important data such as cause of death and identification of birth parents. Death certificates can be issued to family members, legal representatives, governmental agencies, or to a person or agency with personal or property rights. Birth records can be released to immediate family including; grandparents, parents, siblings, legal representatives, or governmental agencies. Employees working in this program must be registered with the State of Oregon to assure competency. An electronic birth and death data certification model was implemented requiring a significant increase in individual education with community partners.

The Vital Records program provides reliable information for data analysis to inform public health decision-making, including the identification of racial health disparities and informing responsive public health interventions. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, marginalized communities of color were severely impacted by the virus, and information provided on death certificates helped identify racial disparities in COVID fatalities.

The program engages local funeral homes, family members, and legal representatives to maximize accuracy of reported information. The program is constantly evolving to better meet community needs by soliciting regular feedback from its clients. For example, the program is in the process of launching an online platform that can be conveniently accessed by the public.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budgeted	FY24 Estimate	FY25 Target
Output	Number of birth and death certificates issued	43,692	50,000	50,000	60,000
Outcome	Average number of days to issue error free certificate	1	1	1	1

Performance Measures Descriptions

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Legal mandates are ORS 97, 146, 432; OAR 830 and 333.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2024	2024	2025	2025
Personnel	\$3,515	\$587,061	\$0	\$623,776
Contractual Services	\$384	\$18,169	\$0	\$39,857
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$17,405	\$0	\$19,104
Internal Services	\$0	\$260,301	\$0	\$271,644
Total GF/non-GF	\$3,899	\$882,936	\$0	\$954,381
Program Total:	\$886,835		\$954,381	
Program FTE	0.00	5.10	0.00	5.22

Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$0	\$882,936	\$0	\$954,381
Total Revenue	\$0	\$882,936	\$0	\$954,381

Explanation of Revenues

This is a fee driven, self-sustaining program. The fee schedule is established by the State of Oregon.

Fees \$ 954,381 - Vital Stats Birth and Death Certificates

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2024: 40009 Vital Records

Future forecast: House Bill 2420 is under review by a Oregon Health Authority workgroup. This bill would remove the 6 month limitation we currently have and open processing up to any county within the State of Oregon.