

Department: Health Department

Program Contact: Jeff Martin

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Adopted

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:
Program Description

ISSUE: Environmental health hazards affect all Multnomah County residents, and when they persistently are more severely present for groups that already have fewer resources to mitigate them, they become environmental justice concerns and have the greatest potential to negatively impact health. These concerns include exposure to lead, air pollution, contaminated sites, health harms from climate change, and inadequate access to health-supportive resources like parks, nutritious food retail, and opportunities for physical activity. Environmental Health Community Programs (EHCP) works to decrease harms caused by environmental health hazards for all people living in Multnomah County, focusing first on communities experiencing the most environmental justice concerns, and, therefore, at highest risk for negative health impacts, such as youth, elders, low-income communities, and communities of color.

PROGRAM GOAL: EHCP is a team of subject matter experts applying environmental justice principles to provide a continuum of services that ensure all county residents have access to neighborhood environments that support health and wellbeing. These services include: policy and decision support, emergency response, data analysis, public messaging, and intervention design and implementation.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: EHCP engages communities to integrate their concerns, expertise, and proposed solutions into the following program areas:

Community Environments: works closely with the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program to ensure safe and healthy neighborhoods through participation in local land use and transportation planning efforts, data analysis, and technical assistance.

Healthy Housing: upholds County regulations on habitability and provides technical assistance and decision support relating to encampments, energy efficiency upgrades, and household toxics. Implements healthy housing interventions.

Toxics Reduction: identifies exposure risks to contaminated land, air, water, consumer goods, and industrial production, and makes technical information accessible to empower community advocacy.

Air Quality: implements County Ordinance 1253, curtailing wood burning on days with high air pollution through air quality forecasts, complaint investigation, outreach, and community collaboration. Responds to adverse air quality events such as industrial accidents and wildfires. Implements City of Portland leaf blower ordinance.

Climate Change: works to understand and address emerging health issues related to climate change. Responds to climate emergencies like extreme heat.

List of outputs: Monitor and report on health conditions related to environmental hazards, such as climate impacts, traffic crash injuries, lead poisoning, and adverse birth outcomes. Work with community partners to deploy evidence-based interventions for climate resilience. Collaborate with agency partners to analyze health impacts of infrastructure investments.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Reach and impressions of community members receiving information on environmental threats	22,883,630	7,500,000	7,500,000	7,500,000
Outcome	Number of children with reduced Elevated Blood Lead Level (EBLL) as a result of environmental investigations	114	65	100	70
Outcome	Number of policies adopted that include health and health justice-based recommendations	15	15	17	15
Outcome	Proportion of people aware of and complying with the woodsmoke curtailment ordinance	91%	80%	86%	86%

Performance Measures Descriptions

1) Counts “reach” (unique number of people receiving content) or “impressions” (total number of views) as appropriate of all program mailings, events, direct staff contacts, websites/social media, and media campaigns. This number is influenced by climate events and may vary across years. FY25 decrease reflects a reduced communications budget. 2) This number varies based on the number of refugee arrivals each year. 4) Measured by a biannual survey. Compliance defined as respondents reporting burning wood only on “no restriction days” or not at all.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

City of Portland Titles 17 and 29, and Multnomah County Housing Code 21.800; Multnomah County Code Chapter 21.450 . Contracts: US EPA for Superfund Site Outreach; Port of Portland and Dept of Environmental Quality for Columbia Slough outreach; US EPA for climate resilience projects in Rockwood; HealthShare of Oregon for climate resilience; Oregon Health Authority for healthy housing interventions.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Personnel	\$732,375	\$1,173,515	\$940,861	\$1,426,419
Contractual Services	\$22,063	\$539,505	\$19,334	\$650,285
Materials & Supplies	\$71,760	\$222,360	\$73,723	\$48,173
Internal Services	\$670	\$271,325	\$898	\$271,042
Total GF/non-GF	\$826,868	\$2,206,705	\$1,034,816	\$2,395,919
Program Total:	\$3,033,573		\$3,430,735	
Program FTE	4.05	7.53	5.38	8.20

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$2,206,705	\$0	\$2,395,919
Total Revenue	\$0	\$2,206,705	\$0	\$2,395,919

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$223,563 in indirect revenues.

\$970,991 - Modernization Local-State

\$510,700 - EPA Fish Advisory

\$455,075 - EPA Environmental Justice

\$89,111 - HealthShare of Oregon

\$65,000 - Columbia Slough Fish Consumption - Port

\$50,000 - Columbia Slough - DEQ

\$255,042 - Healthy Homes Grant Program

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2025: 40037 Environmental Health Community Programs

In FY 2026 we are expanding our work on Columbia Slough with new funding from DEQ, and we are launching a healthy homes intervention program in collaboration with DCHS weatherization staff with new funding from OHA.

The start of clean-up at the superfund site is delayed by a year or more. In response, EPA asked Environmental Health to postpone our planned increase in outreach and education, and to restructure our grant budget to maintain baseline services over a longer period of time. We moved 0.10 FTE Office Assistant off the grant, and we are no longer budgeting a new 0.80 FTE program specialist position.