

Department: Sheriff

Program Offer Type: Operating

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Program Contact: Carey Kaer

Program Offer Stage: Proposed

Program Description

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) provides for the investigations of crimes involving the sale, distribution and manufacturing of dangerous drugs. The MCSO SIU is tasked with enforcing state narcotics laws, prostitution activities and assisting with advanced surveillance of major criminal cases. The emphasis of drug investigations is placed on narcotic distributors who supply to street level dealers, referred to as mid to upper-level narcotic traffickers. This program is also a resource for investigating and apprehending suspects involved in human trafficking of children.

The purpose of the Special Investigations Unit is to investigate illegal drug activities in the Metro area and other criminal activity as directed by the Sheriff. This unit conducts criminal investigations of street level illicit drug activity, up to and including the prosecution of federal narcotics crimes. Investigations often lead to drug trafficking organizations that transport and eventually sell dangerous drugs for a profit. Investigations conducted by detectives assigned to this unit have resulted in indictments and prosecutions in numerous methamphetamine and fentanyl cases. With the changing needs and priorities of the communities, the unit has modified its mission over the past several years to accommodate the significant impacts of methamphetamine and other dangerous drugs infesting neighborhoods, schools, recreational areas and work places. This unit's investigations take them into areas considered hazardous to health and public safety. Statistics show that about 90% of all crime can be attributed to dangerous drugs in the community. By dismantling drug trafficking organizations from introducing illicit drugs into the marketplace, the vision for a safe and thriving community for everyone is achievable. This program is partially funded through grants, revenues received from forfeitures, and federal case funding.

This program has the responsibility to proactively identify, investigate, prepare the required investigative reports, apprehend the suspect(s), prepare the case for successful prosecution, and testify in court in all cases dealing with illegal drugs and vice activities; to include prostitution, illegal gambling, money-laundering and gun possession. SIU recovers weapons which included handguns, rifles, and machine guns during their criminal investigations. SIU is also responsible for investigating overdose incidents that occur in our facilities and patrol jurisdictions. Collaborating with social service providers and the courts, the primary goal is to encourage community members to engage in treatment. The investigations will focus on the dealers, complying with the Len Bias Anti-Drug Act, concentrating on the supplier for charges in connection to overdose deaths.

This Special Investigations Unit:

- Investigates criminal activity involving the sale, distribution, or manufacturing of illegal drugs
- Interdicts criminal operations of narcotics distributors and traffickers

Performance Measures

| Measure Type | Performance Measure | FY24 Actual | FY25 Budgeted | FY25 Estimate | FY26 Target |
|--------------|------------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Output | SIU drug cases | 153 | 150 | 135 | 135 |
| Output | Dollar value of drugs seized | 4,864,395 | 4,900,000 | 4,900,000 | 4,900,000 |

Performance Measures Descriptions

Data are compiled from an Excel database reported monthly. The numbers of drug cases conducted are tied solely to the unit's manpower. The Unit maintained levels of efficiency despite a turnover of 40% turnover of personnel assigned in the unit.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

ORS 206.010, General duties of sheriff

Revenue/Expense Detail

| | Adopted General Fund | Adopted Other Funds | Proposed General Fund | Proposed Other Funds |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Program Expenses | 2025 | 2025 | 2026 | 2026 |
| Personnel | \$1,598,821 | \$60,174 | \$1,715,065 | \$60,226 |
| Contractual Services | \$30,000 | \$110,000 | \$30,000 | \$65,000 |
| Materials & Supplies | \$89,000 | \$35,000 | \$197,000 | \$12,000 |
| Internal Services | \$196,867 | \$9,826 | \$109,469 | \$9,774 |
| Capital Outlay | \$0 | \$2,000,000 | \$0 | \$2,800,000 |
| Total GF/non-GF | \$1,914,688 | \$2,215,000 | \$2,051,534 | \$2,947,000 |
| Program Total: | \$4,129,688 | | \$4,998,534 | |
| Program FTE | 7.00 | 0.00 | 7.00 | 0.00 |

| Program Revenues | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Intergovernmental | \$0 | \$635,000 | \$0 | \$635,000 |
| Other / Miscellaneous | \$0 | \$60,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Beginning Working Capital | \$0 | \$1,520,000 | \$0 | \$2,312,000 |
| Total Revenue | \$0 | \$2,215,000 | \$0 | \$2,947,000 |

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$9,774 in indirect revenues.

Fed/State Funds:

\$500,000 - Proceeds from Federal Equitable Sharing Forfeitures

\$2,300,000 - Carry-over from Fiscal Year 2025

\$135,000 - Funding from HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Activity) Grant.

Special Ops Funds: \$12,000 - Carry-over from FY 2025.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2025: 60525 Special Investigations Unit