

Division: Law Enforcement Division

Program Characteristics:

Program Description

Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Gun Dispossession/VRO (Violation of Restraining Order) Detail program provides for countywide investigation of restraining order violations, specifically when the respondents do not comply by dispossessing themselves of their firearms. Since 2015 MCSO has collaborated with the Portland Police Bureau, Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, and the Multnomah County Circuit Court in enforcing the gun dispossession clause of restraining orders.

In 2011, a model surrender protocol was developed in a statewide domestic violence firearms task force, and this process is currently being utilized in Multnomah County. In January 2020, this protocol was extended to the other protection orders through an Oregon House of Representatives Bill, which include Stalking Orders, Sex Abuse Protection Orders, Disabled and Elder Abuse Protection Orders, and Family Abuse Protection Orders.

This unit helps educate and/or force respondents to comply with the court order to surrender their firearms. This reduces the number of illicit firearms in the community and assists in reducing domestic violence lethality by removing firearms from the respondent's possession. Data shows that access to firearms can increase the risk of death to the petitioner by five times and up to twenty times if the respondent had made prior threats or assaults with firearms. Statistics demonstrate that an abuser's access to firearms increases the risk of homicide of a female partner by 400%, and the mere presence of a gun increases fivefold the chance that domestic violence results in homicide.

The Gun Dispossession VRO Detail:

- Seizes firearms held by subjects of restraining orders and protection orders
- Investigates restraining order violations for follow-up

Equity Statement

The Gun Dispossession Program prioritizes victim safety and focuses on protecting those most at risk of harm, including women and vulnerable populations, and promotes equitable access to justice.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	2026 General Fund	2026 Other Funds	2027 General Fund	2027 Other Funds
Personnel	\$545,854	\$0	\$547,993	\$0
Internal Services	\$9,665	\$0	\$1,131	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$555,519	\$0	\$549,124	\$0
Total Expenses:	\$555,519		\$549,124	
Program FTE	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY25 Actual	FY26 Estimate	FY27 Target
Number of firearms dispossessed	303	188	300
Number of firearm declarations	482	432	500