

Department: County Management

Program Contact: Tim Mercer

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program

Program Offer Stage: As Proposed

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Division of Assessment, Recording, and Taxation (DART) Customer Service Program is the first primary point of contact for DART customers at the public counter, through the organization's incoming phone system, by email and via online chat.

Program Summary

The Customer Service program responds to approximately 140,000 inquiries annually, including 60,000 walk-in customers and approximately 28,000 reported in the County Clerk Function Program Offer. Staff process tax payments, sell copies of records, process passport applications, and provide general information on behalf of the organization. Property owners, taxpayers, and citizens, in general, have an expectation of local government to provide responsive, accurate, and quality service. The ability to connect directly with the taxpayer increases the understanding of government and the role of property taxation.

Customer Service staff also assist the Tax Revenue Management Program by processing approximately 10,000 over-the-counter tax payments totaling approximately \$50+ million dollars annually. Passport photo and County photo ID processes were transferred under the supervision of DART Customer Service and relocated to the DART offices in 2014. The operational costs are split between DART and Facilities & Property Management for photo services. Other recent efficiency and service improvements included point of sale debit/credit cards and website enhancements. In FY19 DART completed the installation of new enterprise software (Orion), which is used in all of DART business processes.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budgeted	FY20 Estimate	FY21 Offer
Output	Number of counter transactions	53,675	57,500	57,690	57,500
Outcome	Average number of transactions per cashier	5,803	6,216	6,237	6,230
Output	Number of phone calls, emails and chats received and answered	74,299	76,339	79,028	79,000
Outcome	Average number of phone calls, emails and chats per operator	8,032	8,252	8,544	8,500

Performance Measures Descriptions

"Number of counter transactions" includes computer-generated statistics from the operating systems used in Customer Service. The system tracks revenue-generating transactions including tax payments, marriage licenses, Domestic Partnership Registrations, passport applications and copies of various records.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Oregon Revised Statutes(ORS) Chapters 92, 205, 294, 305, 306, 307, 308, 308A, 309, 310, 311, 312 and 321 and related Oregon Administrative Rules regulate virtually all aspects of the assessment and property taxation process. ORS 306.115 assigns statewide general supervision of the property tax system to the Oregon Department of Revenue (DOR). Through the "County Assessment Function Funding Assistance" (CAFFA) Grant process described in ORS 294.175, the DOR determines the acceptable level of assessment and taxation staffing. The DOR has determined that DART staffing is at the minimally acceptable level to perform their functions. Any reduction to this program may jeopardize this grant revenue.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2020	2020	2021	2021
Personnel	\$891,910	\$0	\$1,026,576	\$0
Contractual Services	\$2,650	\$0	\$2,650	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$20,110	\$0	\$20,875	\$0
Internal Services	\$374,256	\$0	\$368,545	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,288,926	\$0	\$1,418,646	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,288,926		\$1,418,646	
Program FTE	9.50	0.00	10.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$278,562	\$0	\$235,937	\$0
Total Revenue	\$278,562	\$0	\$235,937	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Participation in the Oregon Department of Revenue County Assessment Function Funding Assistance (CAFFA) Grant provides reimbursement of approximately 15% of Assessment & Taxation program expenditures. Grant amounts vary depending upon the overall state-wide CAFFA pool and the allocated percentage to each participating county. Multnomah County's total annual share of CAFFA is estimated at \$2,930,889, with \$235,937 allocated to DART Customer Service. Remaining Customer Service Program support is provided by General Fund revenues.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2020: 72024-20 DART Customer Service

Increased FTE from 9.50 in FY20 to 10.00 in FY21. Chief Appraiser position formerly in Residential Appraisal Program 72034 and Special Programs 72030 in FY20, was reclassified to Manager 1 position during FY20. For FY21, allocated .50 FTE to County Clerk Recording program 72025A and .50 FTE to Customer Service program 72024.