Multnomah County

Department:	County Management	**Program Contact:**	Sally Brown
Program Offer Type:	Existing Operating Program	**Program Offer Stage:**	As Adopted
Related Programs:			
Program Characteristics:			

Executive Summary

Special Programs Group (SPG), within the Division of Assessment Recording & Taxation (DART), is responsible for processing applications relating to property tax exemptions or special assessments. Exempt properties are monitored by the program for continued qualification. Additional tax roll responsibilities include creating new tax accounts, processing corrections and verifying correct assessed values. Parcel management responsibilities of Special Programs maintains property information and property tax roll descriptions while providing direct customer service to interested parties.

Program Summary

SPG ensures that exempt and specially assessed property is valued in accordance with the law, which maximizes property tax revenues to fund County programs. Property taxes account for approximately 65% of the County's General Fund revenues. Failure to monitor this process will result in loss of taxable assessed value. Focus is on timely processing property descriptions, maintaining ownership and creating new accounts and compliance monitoring of existing exemptions, careful review of new applications, and resolving appeals. Accurate values maximize the level of tax assessment allowed under Measure 5 and Measure 50 tax limitation.

The Special Programs Group (SPG) maintains and processes over 8,000 accounts with special assessments and/or exemptions. Specially assessed properties include farm, forest and historic while exempt accounts include property owned and/or occupied by organizations such as charitable, fraternal, and religious. Leasehold records are monitored to maintain accurate, taxable values on over 800 accounts where non-exempt tenants lease from exempt government agencies. SPG is responsible for approximately 4,800 property tax exemptions for the War Veteran & Surviving Spouse program and the Active Duty Military program. All of these special assessment and exemption programs are mandated by law. In addition, approximately 500 field inspections are performed as part of the program's compliance activities. Staff calculates and redistributes Maximum Assessed Values in accordance with Measure 50 tax limitation requirements for thousands of new properties created each year. SPG contributes to the process to arrive at the total taxable assessed value upon which taxes are calculated and levied for the benefit of all Multnomah County taxing districts. This program ensures that exempt and specially assessed property is accurately assessed as required by the Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS). Maintaining accurate market values on all property relates to the bonding capacity and general obligation bond tax rates for taxing districts in the County.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY13 Actual	FY14 Purchased	FY14 Estimate	FY15 Offer
Output	Accounts Reviewed and Processed for Current Tax Roll	8,949	8,000	9,000	9,000
Outcome	Taxable Market Value Re-established to the Tax Roll (in Millions of dollars)	$295.6 Mil	$500 Mil	$300 Mil	$300 Mil
Input	Total Exempt Accounts Monitored	36,647	37,000	36,000	36,000
Output	Total Number of Accounts Processed for Prior Tax Roll	2,181	3,040	2,200	2,200

Performance Measures Descriptions

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) requires all property to be valued according to market as accurate market values directly relate to the bonding capacity and general obligation bond tax rates for taxing districts. Specific property tax exemptions are allowed by law. Measurements indicate exempt and specially assessed properties are accurately assessed and tax rolls properly maintained.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapters 92, 205, 294, 305, 306, 307, 308, 308A, 309, 310 and 321 and related Oregon Administrative Rules regulate virtually all aspects of the assessment and property tax calculation process. ORS 306.115 assigns statewide general supervision of the property tax system to the Oregon Dept. 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 is already at the minimally acceptable staffing level to perform their functions. Any reduction to this program may jeopardize this grant revenue.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	**2014**	**2014**	**2015**	**2015**
Personnel	$1,066,310	$0	$1,103,039	$0
Contractual Services	$0	$0	$1,000	$0
Materials & Supplies	$18,620	$0	$22,875	$0
Internal Services	$180,390	$0	$190,889	$0
Total GF/non-GF	**$1,265,320**	**$0**	**$1,317,803**	**$0**
Program Total:	**$1,265,320**		**$1,317,803**	
Program FTE	11.00	0.00	11.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	$412,380	$0	$357,420	$0
Total Revenue	**$412,380**	**$0**	**$357,420**	**$0**

Explanation of Revenues

Participation in the Oregon Department of Revenue County Assessment Function Funding Assistance (CAFFA) Grant provides reimbursement of approximately 25% 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 $3,450,000 for FY15, with $357,420 allocated to DART Property Assessment-Special Programs. Remaining Program support is provided by General Fund revenues.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: 72030 DART Property Assessment Special Programs

Transferred /Allocated .30 FTE of position #704343 to DART Tax Title Program #72038 for FY15 to reflect the portion of staff time expended in support of Tax Foreclosed property management, maintenance and disposition. Net reduction of .30 FTE from FY14 to FY15 for this Program.