

Department: County Management **Program Contact:** Larry Steele
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed
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 and special assessments. The group monitors exempt properties for continued qualification in the exemption programs. Additional tax roll responsibilities include processing corrections and reallocating maximum assessed value. Special Programs maintains property information while providing direct customer service to the public.

Program Summary

The Special Programs Group (SPG) ensures that exempt and specially assessed properties are valued in accordance with state statutes to maximize property tax revenues that fund County programs. Property taxes account for approximately 60% of the County's General Fund revenues. Accurate values maximize the level of tax assessment allowed under Measure 5 and Measure 50 limitations.

SPG reviews and processes, annually, over 6,500 accounts with special assessments and/or exemptions. Examples of some of the programs SPG administers are historic special assessments, exemptions for properties owned and/or occupied by charitable, fraternal and religious organizations, and farm/forest deferrals. Lease records are also tracked for exempt government agencies leasing to non-exempt tenants, ensuring taxable values for over 800 additional accounts are accurate.

SPG administers programs that provide exemptions to war veterans and their surviving spouses, along with active duty military personnel. Currently, there are a combined 4,000 accounts that qualify for these programs. In previous years, approximately 500 field inspections were performed annually as part of SPG's compliance activities. Due to COVID-19, in 2020 no field inspections were completed in order to ensure the safety of our community and team. We have transitioned to more flexible, technological, customer focused solutions that provide for safe, effective remote contact.

In addition to administering exemptions and special assessments, the SPG team determines and reallocates Maximum Assessed Values in accordance with Measure 50 tax limitation requirements for thousands of new properties created each year. SPG is also responsible for the timely processing of tax roll corrections.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Exempt Accounts Reviewed and Processed for the Current Tax Roll	6822	7000	7500	7000
Outcome	Total Exempt Accounts Monitored	33640	34500	33000	33500
Output	Total Number of Accounts Processed for Prior Tax Roll (roll corrections)	2614	2000	2500	2000

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. Current DART staffing is minimally adequate to perform statutory functions.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Personnel	\$883,446	\$0	\$922,938	\$0
Contractual Services	\$1,800	\$0	\$1,800	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$13,213	\$0	\$11,147	\$0
Internal Services	\$120,337	\$0	\$115,525	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,018,796	\$0	\$1,051,410	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,018,796		\$1,051,410	
Program FTE	7.25	0.00	7.25	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$171,163	\$0	\$173,941	\$0
Total Revenue	\$171,163	\$0	\$173,941	\$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 \$3,004,161, with \$173,941 allocated to DART Property Assessment Special Programs. Remaining Program support is provided by General Fund revenues.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 72030 DART Property Assessment Special Programs