



Program #72034 - DART Residential Property Appraisal 2/24/2014

Department: County Management **Program Contact:** Leslie CECH
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

The Residential Property Appraisal Program, within the Division of Assessment, Recording and Taxation (DART), is responsible for valuing and appraising all residential-use Real Property, residential converted to commercial use, generic commercial use, personal property floating property, and personal property manufactured homes. Residential Property represents 62% of the total taxable assessed value upon which taxes are calculated and levied for the benefit of all Multnomah County taxing districts.

Program Summary

This program is responsible for maintaining Real Market Value and Maximum Assessed Value on 209,600 single family and two-four family properties; 35,500 condominiums; 4,900 manufactured homes; 1,800 floating properties; 2,800 farm/forest deferral properties; and 1,300 business accounts. Staff physically inspects and appraises 8,000 to 9,000 properties annually due to permits issued for new construction, remodeling or renovation. They also appraise 4,000 to 5,000 properties annually discovered through the sales confirmation process as having been significantly improved without apparent issuance of building or trade permits.

Under Measure 50, such appraisals add new value for taxing districts beyond the statutorily required 3% increase in the Maximum Assessed Value. Appraisals are also performed to defend values under appeal; and to verify that sales of property are valid market-based transactions that can be used to adjust automated valuation models, to appraise other property, and to generate the annual Ratio Report that measures the effectiveness of the program. This program primarily contributes to the fair and accurate appraisal of residential property as required by the Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS).

Maintaining accurate Real Market Values on all property directly affects the maximum bonding capacity and general obligation bond tax rates for all applicable taxing districts in the County. The program ensures that all residential property is valued in accordance with the law, which maximizes property tax revenues to fund programs for the County and other jurisdictions. Property taxes account for approximately 65% of the County's General Fund revenues.

Various computer and online tools are used to maximize appraisal effort. Focus is on discovery of new taxable property. Accurate values maximize the level of tax assessment allowed under Measure 5 and Measure 50 tax limitation measures.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY13 Actual	FY14 Purchased	FY14 Estimate	FY15 Offer
Output	Accounts Appraised	16781	15,000	15,000	17,000
Outcome	New Taxable Exception Value in Millions of Dollars	\$427 Million	\$400 Million	\$400 Million	\$450 Million
Efficiency	Accounts Appraised per Appraiser	699	700	700	700
Outcome	% Neighborhood with COD Compliance	93%	98%	98%	98%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Oregon law requires property appraisals to be at 100% of Market Value as of January 1 of each year within standards established by the Oregon Department of Revenue (DOR). One of the primary standards is a statistical measure called the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD). Failure to meet these standards can result in loss of CAFFA grant revenue and program control. The DOR annually reviews compliance through three required reports: The Assessor's Certified Ratio Study, the Assessor's Appraisal Plan and the CAFFA Grant application.

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 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 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

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2014	2014	2015	2015
Personnel	\$3,020,693	\$0	\$3,014,837	\$0
Contractual Services	\$10,500	\$0	\$10,500	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$120,675	\$0	\$125,677	\$0
Internal Services	\$436,263	\$0	\$464,211	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$3,588,131	\$0	\$3,615,225	\$0
Program Total:	\$3,588,131		\$3,615,225	
Program FTE	29.40	0.00	29.40	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$968,540	\$0	\$981,464	\$0
Total Revenue	\$968,540	\$0	\$981,464	\$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 \$4,029,000 for FY15, with \$981,464 allocated to DART Residential Appraisal Program. Remaining Program support is from General Fund Revenues.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: 72034 DART Residential Property Appraisal

Allocation of Chief Appraiser position changed from .35 FTE in FY14 to .40 FTE in FY15, a net increase of .05 FTE from FY14 to FY15 for management support of this Program.