

### Program #40061B - Safe Sharps Disposal

6/27/2018

**Program Contact:** Kim Toevs **Department: Health Department Program Offer Type:** Innovative/New Program Program Offer Stage: As Adopted

**Related Programs:** 40061A

Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

## **Executive Summary**

The Healthy Streets project launched in February 2016 in response to the growing concern of discarded syringes in downtown Portland. This community-based disposal strategy established safe sharps disposal boxes on the Waterfront Esplanade to encourage safe disposal of used needles by people who inject drugs (PWID). FY 2019 services will expand Healthy Streets by adding five additional safe sharps disposal boxes outside of the downtown core to address inappropriate syringe disposal and public safety.

### **Program Summary**

The Healthy Streets project is one component of a strategy to reduce the number of improperly discarded syringes and provide the public a safe community-based disposal option. Over the past several years, injection drug use has dramatically increased as part of the overall rise in opioid addiction and methamphetamine use. Syringe exchange surveys conducted by Multnomah County Public Health show an increase in the percentage of heroin users using prescription opioids before ever using heroin (from 45% in 2011 to 51% in 2016). Increases in community members experiencing substance use disorders and living in public spaces due to homelessness, along with safe disposal options community wide, has contributed to an increase in discarded syringes.

Members of the general public have become increasingly concerned as the number of syringes found in neighborhoods, public spaces and businesses increases. Safe sharps disposal boxes create a 24/7 disposal option for safe disposal of syringes by community members finding used syringes. Members of the public comfortable with taking action when finding syringes are able to call Multnomah County for guidance and/or access safe disposal information.

This program is a collaboration between the Public Health Division and Multnomah County Department of County Assets Facilities Unit. Facilities purchase, install and maintain drop boxes. A biohazard waste disposal company is contracted to routinely monitor, empty and clean the sharps disposal boxes.

In addition to safe sharps disposal boxes, the Public Health Division supplies small syringe disposal units to community partners for distribution directly to PWID. This program offer will expand the number of community partnerships for distribution of safe disposal units.

Performance Measures								
Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY17 Actual	FY18 Purchased	FY18 Estimate	FY19 Offer			
Output	# new syringe drop boxes installed	N/A	3	2	5			
Outcome								
Output	# new community partnerships for distribution of small disposal units and referral to needle exchange	N/A	N/A	N/A	4			

#### **Performance Measures Descriptions**

## Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2018	2018	2019	2019
Personnel	\$9,981	\$0	\$23,756	\$0
Contractual Services	\$20,000	\$0	\$80,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$19	\$0	\$40,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$30,000	\$0	\$143,756	\$0
Program Total:	\$30,000		\$143,756	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00

Program Revenues					
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	

# **Explanation of Revenues**

## **Significant Program Changes**

Last Year this program was: