

**Program #78232 - Health Syringe Boxes**

2/20/2019

**Department:** County Assets **Program Contact:** Naomi Butler  
**Program Offer Type:** Innovative/New Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested  
**Related Programs:**  
**Program Characteristics:** One-Time-Only Request, Out of Target

**Executive Summary**

Sharps drop boxes are a community-based disposal strategy which encourages safe disposal of used syringes by people who use injection drugs and provides the public with a convenient disposal option. In FY19, Multnomah County led a multi-jurisdictional Healthy Streets pilot to expand the number of sharps drop boxes in our community. In April of 2019, 14 new SDBs were sited across the community, bringing the total number of SDBs to 17. In FY20, the County will continue to provide support in implementing the expanded pilot and will track its success in reducing waste.

**Program Summary**

Improper syringe disposal has posed an ongoing waste management challenge for some time, and the national opioid epidemic has contributed to this growing problem in recent years. Opioid use and dependence across the country has led to a sustained rise in injection drug use and syringe debris.

Community members have become increasingly concerned about syringes found in neighborhoods, public spaces and businesses. In response, Multnomah County, the City of Portland, TriMet, Downtown Clean & Safe and Metro created the Healthy Streets pilot program to test the impact of SDBs on reducing syringe waste. The Healthy Streets pilot 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.

Sharps disposal boxes create a 24/7 disposal option for safe disposal of syringes by community members finding used syringes. In partnership with other jurisdictions, the County has developed a website and communication materials to support the public in taking action when finding syringes. After reviewing existing designs for syringe drop boxes, the Healthy Streets pilot partners agreed to design and fabricate a unique, more tamper resistant syringe box. The procurement, design and fabrication of these boxes took longer than expect, and the boxes were installed in April 2019. In FY20, the County will continue to play a coordination role in maintaining and servicing sharps boxes, tracking the success of the program and working with other jurisdiction partners. A total of 17 boxes will be operation throughout the county in FY20, and the County will play a role in maintaining/servicing 14 of these boxes.

Health Department will manage the biohazard vendor contract and payments. Facilities and Property Management will act as liaison for the Health Department regarding, service calls, installation and repair of boxes.

**Performance Measures**

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY18 Actual	FY19 Purchased	FY19 Estimate	FY20 Offer
Output	Number of sharps disposal boxes maintained	N/A	5	5	5
Outcome	Number of jurisdictional partnerships maintained	N/A	4	5	5
Output	Total number of sharps disposal boxes in the community	2	5	17	17

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

Output-Number of sharps disposal boxes maintained  
 Outcome- Number of jurisdictional partnerships maintained  
 Output-Total number of sharps disposal boxes in the community

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2019	2019	2020	2020
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$50,000</b>	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Financing Sources	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

Explanation of Revenues

This is a one-time-only request for general funds.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2019: 40061B-19 Safe Sharps Disposal