

Program #80001 - Central Library
FY 2026 Proposed
Department: Library

Program Contact: Shelly Jarman

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Proposed

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:
Program Description

Central Library enacts Multnomah County Library values by leading with racial equity and inclusion to create spaces and services for all community members. This region, which covers downtown Portland, provides culturally relevant services to Black, Indigenous, LGBTQIA+, Chinese and Spanish-speaking library users and helps decrease the digital divide throughout Multnomah County.

ISSUE: Public spaces to access information, educational opportunities, technology and an area to connect with others are systemically lacking in Multnomah County. There are substantial limitations for no-charge, culturally specific community hubs that provide access to language learning, early literacy and learning, technology support and more.

PROGRAM GOAL: Central library's educational programs improve employment opportunities and quality of life for those with low English proficiency and limited resources. To support critical life skill development and digital literacy, library staff prioritize services such as tech access; one-on-one tech help; job search help, training and resources; literacy resources; and classes for youth and adults. Library crisis intervention services and peer support services perform both intervention and resource or service referrals for members of the public experiencing houselessness and other challenges.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: Central Library continues to focus on strategies to best serve marginalized communities and advance equity. Outreach and programming decisions are informed using a community needs assessment and by prioritizing services based on these identified needs: technology access and assistance, collection access, information access, and dedicated hours for crisis intervention services. Library services are prioritized to serve those from underserved communities and provide a cultural- and/or language-specific lens. This includes storytimes, youth literacy programs, workshops for teens, virtual and in-person adult classes, one-on-one tech training, and job assistance training.

RACIAL EQUITY ADVANCEMENT: All library locations are actively engaging in equity work. The priority is open access without barriers to library spaces. The team dedicated to serving the Chinese speaking community expanded capacity with a change to higher classifications. Black, Indigenous, and People of Color are disproportionately impacted by houselessness and socioeconomic distress, and the Central Library will continue to add programming that offers resources and referrals to these communities.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Number of library visits	135,527	250,000	375,000	400,000
Outcome	% of patrons who usually find what they need	94%	92%	84%	84%

Performance Measures Descriptions

The measure "% of patrons who usually find what they need" is slightly changed due a revision in the FY25 patron survey. The previous measure was "% of library users who found books and items they wanted."

Central Library was closed for part of FY 2024 for renovations.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

The budget reflects the passage of Measure 26-143: "Form Library District with permanent rate to fund library services," November 2012 General Election. The district summary states in pertinent part: "If approved, the Multnomah County Library District would be formed with a permanent rate dedicated to library services, operations, books, materials, programs, activities and oversight of the district. Formation of a District would...prevent reductions in services, programs and activities, and hours."

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Personnel	\$0	\$7,450,575	\$0	\$7,481,762
Contractual Services	\$0	\$249,582	\$0	\$308,767
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$64,727	\$0	\$77,296
Internal Services	\$0	\$3,185,525	\$0	\$2,023,092
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$10,950,409	\$0	\$9,890,917
Program Total:	\$10,950,409		\$9,890,917	
Program FTE	0.00	59.50	0.00	59.50

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

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$313,453 in indirect revenues.

The revenue allocated to this program offer reflects an intergovernmental service reimbursement from the Library District (99.97%) and resources from the County's Library Fund (0.03%). It represents a prorated share of property taxes (98%), other revenues such as interest earnings, grants, and user charges for services provided to library patrons (2%).

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2025: 80001 Central Library

A number of positions are reallocated from Central Library to other areas of the library system. These shifts are part of the library's efforts to realign staffing to meet changing operational needs as a result of the 2020 bond program. The change in internal services charges to this program is a result of consolidation Capital Plan Improvement contributions to Facilities and Logistics.

Shifts in contracted spending include a partial reduction to the library's contract for qualified mental health support at Central Library, as well as full program costs for a Peer Support Specialist pilot program. The peer program was fully funded by Supportive Housing Resources in the FY 2025 Adopted Budget.