

Department: Library

Program Contact: Angela Weyrens

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Adopted

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Program Description

East County libraries (Fairview-Columbia, Gresham, Rockwood, Troutdale, and the new East County Library) enact Multnomah County Library values by leading with racial equity and inclusion to create spaces and services for all community members. This region provides culturally relevant services to Black, Russian 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: East County libraries' language learning and 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. The Rockwood Library will be refreshed through the Capital Bond project to create more space for the community, support efficiency through Automated Materials Handling, and add new furniture and layouts to support a variety of needs.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: East County libraries continue to focus on strategies to best serve marginalized communities and advance racial 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 library materials pickup. Library services are prioritized to serve those from underserved communities and provide a cultural- and/or language-specific lens. This included storytimes, youth literacy programs, workshops for teens, virtual and in-person adult classes (ESL, citizenship, computer use, small business), one-on-one tech training, and job assistance training.

RACIAL EQUITY ADVANCEMENT: All library locations are actively engaging in equity work. Open access without barriers to library spaces is the priority. In recent years the library added additional staff focused on serving the Russian-language communities.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Number of library visits	372,307	310,000	345,000	210,000
Outcome	% of patrons who usually find what they need	91%	92%	85%	85%

Performance Measures Descriptions

The measure "number of library visits" reflects building closures; some closure and opening dates are tentative. 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."

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	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Personnel	\$0	\$9,035,899	\$0	\$9,430,920
Contractual Services	\$0	\$2,723	\$0	\$2,846
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$91,289	\$0	\$121,413
Internal Services	\$0	\$1,372,583	\$0	\$1,690,997
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$10,502,494	\$0	\$11,246,176
Program Total:	\$10,502,494		\$11,246,176	
Program FTE	0.00	71.50	0.00	73.50

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

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$395,130 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: 80005 East County Libraries

Rockwood Library will be closed for a building refresh from spring through fall 2025. In spring 2026, current Gresham Library staff and services will shift to the new East County Library.

In addition to the transfer of Gresham staff, a number of positions from across the library system are reallocated to the East County region; 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. New and updated services and spaces in East County include access to a 220-seat auditorium, a dedicated teen room, indoor and outdoor kids spaces, an A/V studio, flex rooms, sensory spaces, a quiet reading area and large meeting rooms.