

Department: District Attorney

Program Contact: Jeff Howes

Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program

Program Offer Stage: As Adopted

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

National best practices in criminal prosecution include the use of data research and planning teams to enable data-driven policy and resource allocation decision making. Similar programs exist within Multnomah County's Department of Community Justice, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council, the Multnomah County Circuit Court of the Oregon Judicial Department, as well as within the Portland Police Bureau.

Program Summary

The creation of the Research and Planning Unit will greatly enhance the ability of the District Attorney to make evidence-based decisions and reinforce the county's long standing commitment to data analysis. This unit will produce research that explores and uncovers prosecutorial effects and trends in Multnomah County's criminal justice system. This further insight will facilitate informed policy decision making to strategically address disparities within our county.

Furthermore, the trend in public safety in the county and across the nation is for increased cooperation among peers to answer questions greater than any one entity. Experience here in the county has shown that when one partner in criminal justice evaluation comes to the table without the capacity to keep up with others, that weak link causes the whole enterprise to suffer. As public safety systems in Multnomah County join to tackle important questions, the District Attorney's office is determined to be an equal partner with others in this endeavor. That commitment requires an expansion of the office's evaluation capacity to invest resources in maintaining and developing new partnerships and programs.

Internally, the DA's office is asking more sophisticated questions about its own workings, including examinations of equity and disparity in prosecution, DDA workload and effectiveness, and case flow efficiency. At one time it may have been sufficient to find answers to these questions through the authority of long tenure, management discussion and speculation by line staff. These older methods are insufficient in the face of greater reliance in the county and nationwide on sophisticated data analyses that provide more objective means to drive policy. The office's single temporary evaluator can no longer meet our needs; we must be about the business of building a more robust research and planning enterprise.

For additional MCDA Budget Information:

<http://mcda.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/MCDA-Budget-Informational-Packet-FY-20.pdf>

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY18 Actual	FY19 Purchased	FY19 Estimate	FY20 Offer
Output	Data analysis reports	na/-	na/-	na/-	32
Outcome	Number of outcome measures analyzed for reporting	na/-	na/-	na/-	840

Performance Measures Descriptions

Data analysis reports refers to a monthly report on community courts, a monthly report on LEAD, and eight independent topical reports. Outcome measures analyzed for reporting is derived from four reports under development (as of Feb 2019) utilizing a total of 350 independent variables as well as the community court count of 10 variables over 12 months.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2019	2019	2020	2020
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$126,593	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$3,407	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$130,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$130,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00

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

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: