

Department: Community Services **Program Contact:** Lee Girard
Program Offer Type: Existing **Program Offer Stage:** Adopted
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

The Levee Ready Columbia program supports work to secure the Columbia River levees' accreditation, reduce the risk of catastrophic flooding, and protect the health and resilience of County communities and the broader region. The FY 2023 budget includes a cash contribution to fund the program administration of the Levee Ready Columbia partnership to ensure that the region addresses federal requirements for levee accreditation. This payment fulfills the fifth year of a five year intergovernmental agreement.

Program Description

As a regional partner in Levee Ready Columbia, the County has supported the work necessary to ensure improvements are identified and addressed within four drainage districts along the Columbia River levee system in Multnomah County. Failure to address identified deficiencies puts 7,500 residents (of whom 45% are people of color according to 2020 Census data), critical public infrastructure (including the state's second largest source of drinking water), businesses and employment centers, community assets, and hazardous materials at risk of flooding. Failing to act also risks loss of levee accreditation under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program as well as noncompliance with the US Army Corps of Engineers Rehabilitation and Inspection Program.

The partnership has made major accomplishments in the past five years, including completing evaluations of the levee systems, securing federal investment through a US Army Corps of Engineers New Start project, and successfully advocating for the passage of state legislation to create a new Urban Flood Safety & Water Quality District with the authority necessary for long-term governance and funding of the levee system. Work is currently underway to transition to the new district governance, coordinate with the US Army Corps of Engineers on a feasibility study for modernizing the system, and scope remediation projects for completion of the certification and accreditation processes. This work will be supported by Levee Ready Columbia program staff funded through partnership financial contributions until the new district is able to collect revenue.

In addition to providing financial support to Levee Ready Columbia, the County will continue to act as the fiscal agent in administering State grants and loans secured in 2016 for the regional partnership. The County will also continue to provide representation in partnership meetings.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budgeted	FY23 Estimate	FY24 Offer
Output	Participation in levee accreditation process	100%	100%	100%	100%
Outcome	Number of grant/loan contracts administered	2	2	2	2

Performance Measures Descriptions

Success is measured by participation in levee accreditation process and administration of grants and loans. FY 2024 represents the last year of a five year intergovernmental agreement.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

County commitments include contractual loan repayment obligations to the project and cash contribution for FY 2024.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2023	2023	2024	2024
Contractual Services	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
Program Total:	\$50,000		\$50,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

Explanation of Revenues

Program is supported by State Video Lottery Funds.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2023: 90014 Levee Ready Columbia (IGA Obligation)

This program was supported by one-time-only County General Funds in FY 2023 and will continue to be supported by one-time-only funds in FY 2024.