

Department: Community Services

Program Contact: Megan Gibb

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Proposed

Related Programs: 90020

Program Characteristics:
Program Description

Unincorporated Multnomah County is a unique and highly sought-after location because it offers open spaces, pristine natural and scenic resources, and working forests and farmland in close proximity to the state's largest urban area. The Land Use Planning (LUP) division implements development codes and policies to protect public health and safety, natural resources and to preserve the unique character of the County's rural areas.

The long-range planning program, in partnership with the Planning Commission, a community advisory body, creates, revises and manages the adoption of plans, policies, and land use regulations in a thoughtful and equitable manner to ensure the County's comprehensive plan and zoning code complies with relevant federal, state and local laws. Staff ensure that development is safe and consistent with community needs and desires. In 2016, the County adopted the revised comprehensive plan which continues to be implemented through incremental legislative actions. This 20-year plan was built around value statements that the Board of County Commissioners adopted in 1999 and readopted in 2007. Those value statements include promoting inclusion, diversity and equity throughout our communities and seeking fairness and balance in finding creative solutions that build community and benefit the public. Long-range planning staff also play a key role in coordinating with regional partners, such as Metro and the Columbia River Gorge Commission, to ensure the County's vision and values continue to be upheld.

The current planning program provides assistance with the land use permitting process to property owners, neighbors, developers, realtors, consultants and other agencies to objectively, consistently and fairly apply the County's development standards and procedures. Staff explain land use rules and processes, review land use and building applications for compliance with applicable laws, issue permits and problem-solve complex land use issues with applicants, other agencies and community members.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	(New for FY 2026) Median number of calendar days to address customer inquiries	N/A	N/A	N/A	10
Output	(New for FY 2026) Mandated legislative actions completed (federal, state statutes and rules, local IGAs,	N/A	N/A	N/A	4

Performance Measures Descriptions

The first measure tracks the median number of calendar days to address customer inquiries. The second measure captures the number of mandated legislative code, plan or map amendments processed each year. N/A refers to measures that commenced in FY 2025 and to previous years' performance measures. Due to changes in software, data on previous years' performance measures is unavailable.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Multnomah County must adopt and implement a comprehensive plan that meets State planning goals and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Management Plan. This includes implementing regulations as provided under ORS 92, 195, 196, 197, 215 and 390 which mandate review of development and prescribe procedures to ensure due process. The County must update its codes to comply with new laws adopted each legislative session or when relevant agencies revise their rules and employ staff necessary to carry out these responsibilities.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Personnel	\$1,748,164	\$34,800	\$1,987,711	\$33,165
Contractual Services	\$73,500	\$0	\$153,134	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$129,217	\$198	\$125,800	\$796
Internal Services	\$387,212	\$5,002	\$249,532	\$6,039
Total GF/non-GF	\$2,338,093	\$40,000	\$2,516,177	\$40,000
Program Total:	\$2,378,093		\$2,556,177	
Program FTE	9.77	0.23	11.29	0.21

Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$230,000	\$0	\$409,510	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000
Service Charges	\$40,000	\$0	\$89,057	\$0
Total Revenue	\$270,000	\$40,000	\$498,567	\$40,000

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$6,039 in indirect revenues.

The County General Fund supports the Land Use Planning program. Fees are set and collected for land use permits paid by private and public landowners (federal, state and local agencies) and the revenue from those fees go back into the County General Fund. With the current FY 2025 fee structure, we estimate \$498,567 in revenues from land fees, permits and charges in FY 2026. The division also receives \$40,000 from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development in the form of a grant, to assist with the management of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area over the State's biennium budget (\$80,000 anticipated over the FY 2025 and FY 2026 biennium).

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2025: 90021A Land Use Planning

Land Use Planning staff returned to in-person work one day a week beginning in FY 2025. Additionally, the LUP Division conducted a fee study to determine the current degree of cost recovery resulting from implementation of the current land use permit fees, and to compare fees charged by other jurisdictions for similar application reviews. This fee study will be used to inform proposed fee adjustments for FY 2026. Also, a customer service workgroup studied customer needs and preferences which generally identified a desire for faster permitting services and additional opportunities to meet in person with LUP staff.

Lastly, this program added 1.0 FTE for a Planner 1 to be funded using General Funds.