

Division: Land Use Planning

Program Characteristics: New Request, One-Time-Only Request

Program Description

The Multnomah County Zoning Code needs a complete update. A 2022 review showed that the Code has major problems: it's poorly organized, uses confusing language, lacks clear instructions, and doesn't allow enough flexibility for minor permit changes. This complicated, inconsistent, and unclear Code leads to many customer service and operational issues, such as long permit review times. Furthermore, the current Code makes it harder for the County to achieve important goals like increasing housing, boosting rural economies, improving climate resilience, mitigating hazards, and providing better customer service.

This program proposes funding the third and final year of the three-year Zoning Code Improvement Project. The project is designed to make the Multnomah County Zoning Code clearer and easier to use. In this final year (FY 2027), the team will continue working with expert consultants. They will use the results from community engagement, surveys, reviews of other Oregon county zoning codes, and the in-depth audit of the County's own Code to completely reformat and rewrite the Code. This work will result in new, easier-to-understand regulations, including changes to comply with state law, which Land Use Planning will present to the Board for discussion and adoption.

Equity Statement

The Land Use Code is currently complex and difficult to understand. Reformatting and rewriting the code will make it easier for everyone to understand, including residents for whom English is a second language, and residents who are less familiar with legal and technical language. We are striving to make the code more accessible to all people and easier to understand.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	2026 General Fund	2026 Other Funds	2027 General Fund	2027 Other Funds
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0
Total Expenses:	\$0		\$100,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY25 Actual	FY26 Estimate	FY27 Target
Adoption ready code amendments	N/A	N/A	2
Number of public engagement events	N/A	N/A	2