

**Department:** County Human Services

**Program Contact:** Mary Li

**Program Offer Type:** Innovative/New Program

**Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted

**Related Programs:**
**Program Characteristics:**

### Executive Summary

The Multnomah Mothers' Trust Project (MMTP) - with a focus on those living east of 82nd avenue - will work with approximately 100 Black female-headed households with children currently receiving services from one of two community based programs. Families will receive an unconditional monthly basic income, and be invited to serve as participant researchers in an equity and human centered collaborative design process to explore and plan for future implementation of Baby Bonds!, debt reduction, homeownership, and other asset building initiatives.

### Program Summary

**ISSUE:** Hope is a research based component for change. The challenge of supporting BIPOC families living on a low-income in building hope (and autonomy, self-determination, and mastery), using County provided resources, in the face of structural white supremacy is real. Success will require the willingness to question "what we know" and who is in poverty and why, and to take smart risks to test new approaches and strategies.

As we continue to respond to the immediate needs of our community in the pandemic, we must also focus on building the pathway to a racially just and equitable economic recovery. Our community's recovery from the pandemic must close or eliminate the African American racial wealth gap.

**PROGRAM GOAL:** There is a growing body of national and international research that points to the availability of unconditional cash transfer, basic income, debt reduction, and asset building as particularly effective strategies in meeting this challenge. Locally conducted applied research tests show that when households living on a low-income are trusted to know what they need, and are provided access to financial resources, they are able to inoculate against the negative impacts of poverty and make improvement in their quality of life, economic stability, and their children's educational success in spite of white supremacy structures and culture.

**PROGRAM ACTIVITY:** MMTP will work with approximately 100 Black female-headed households with children who are current participants with two community based, culturally specific organizations, and with a focus on those living east of 82nd avenue. Families will be provided with an unconditional, basic income of approximately \$500 per month, and invited to join as participant researchers in one of two ways - using an existing database, provide monthly information about how the resources are impacting their families, and/or participate in an equity and human centered collaborative design process related to Baby Bonds!, debt reduction, homeownership, and other asset building initiatives.

### Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	# of Black female-headed HH with children served	N/A	N/A	N/A	100
Outcome	% of HH served who participate as MMTP researchers	N/A	N/A	N/A	50%
Outcome	% of HH served who report positive increase in quality of life, economic stability, and/or child educational success	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%

### Performance Measures Descriptions

Because this is a new project, an evaluation plan will be designed with additional and different measures. All families will be asked to provide information in order to evaluate the impact of the MMTP, including comparison to other unconditional cash, basic income, and asset building research. Measures seek to document process and impact experiences for participant households, while providing information critical to future understanding of these strategies.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$134,245
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$490,755
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$625,000</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$625,000</b>	
<b>Program FTE</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$625,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$625,000</b>

Explanation of Revenues

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Direct County Funding - \$625,000

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was:

This program addresses the County's priority of Crisis Response & Community Recovery. The pandemic has exacerbated long standing racial and economic injustices. Funds provide basic monthly income through unconditional cash transfer to 100 Black/African American mothers with families who have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, in addition to using design practices to plan for future implementation of Baby Bonds! and other asset building opportunities for these families.