



# Office of Government Relations FY 2022 Proposed Budget

Presented to the  
Board of County  
Commissioners

Multnomah County  
May 19, 2021

Located at: [www.multco.us/budget](http://www.multco.us/budget)

# Government Relations // Overview

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**Total Budget - \$1,281,600 and 6.00 FTE**

Jeston Black -- Director

Sarah Lochner -- Deputy Director

Sheri Campbell -- Senior Grants Coordinator

Taylor Steenblock -- Associate

Vanessa Elkan – Policy Research Analyst

TBD -- Tribal Liaison (New Position)



# Government Relations // Overview

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- Advocate on behalf of Multnomah County at the Federal, State and Local level.
- Assist the Board in the identification of State and Federal Legislative priorities.
- Work with Departments and Commissioners to assess policy impacts on Multnomah County.
- Provide research support for County policy priorities.
- Connect smaller cities with County operations.
- Track and capture opportunities for state and federal grants.



# Government Relations // Tribal Liaison

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- Provide guidance and support to increase understanding within the County of American Indian/Alaska Native community culture, customs, and priorities;
- Explore treaty rights that could have policy implications for the County and develop trainings for key staff members;
- Develop a framework to increase engagement and consultation with tribal governments and the local American Indian/Alaska Native community when appropriate; and
- Develop and implement the land acknowledgement related work within the County that has been led by the Regional Tribal Relations Collaborative.



# Applying an Equity Lens

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- Addition of Tribal Liaison;
- Equity Lens in Bill Analysis and utilizing within state policy and budget discussions;
- Legislative Agenda: (HB 2353, 3116, 2337, etc);
- Inclusion of East County in County work;
- Develop a summer institute for legislators to discuss property tax law in Oregon. Government Relations presented specifically on how property taxes impacted horizontal inequity and gentrification in Multnomah County.
- Assessed county fee collections and how to reduce burden for marginalized communities (community supervision fines, etc.; SB 620)
- Budget and funding formula analysis at State level.



# COVID-19 Impacts

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- Less face time with legislators, departments, staff, and partner organizations;
- More check-ins with Commissioners;
- Provided support to the COVID-19 emergency operations center 7 days a week for 185 days throughout the duration of the event beginning March 17, 2020, with on call support for an additional 250 days;
- Improved communication with local government leaders both to inform our response to COVID-19, but also for a more integrated local government portfolio going forward; and
- Virtual special sessions & long legislative session.



# Success

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- Identified \$2.5 million in missing State funding for Behavioral Health
- More emphasis on East County in County work
- Legislative Agenda: ECC, fees, suicide reporting.
- Tracked 1,131 bills
- Negotiated \$70M into the regional TMAC package for Burnside Bridge
- Reviewed AOC dues structures, collected data about disparities across counties in payment vs. representation
- Conducted a six month grant development practicum training 10 staff from six departments to increase grant capacity and knowledge across departments
- Completed a procurement process to create a pool of contracted grant writers to assist departments pursue funding opportunities



# Upcoming Projects

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- Continue five-year revenue analysis for other key departments (JOHS, DCHS, DCS, etc.);
- Behavioral Health Funding Formula Work Group;
- Burnside Bridge project - funding from the federal and state jurisdictions;
- Continuing to work the utility fee bill, which has been an effort for over a decade;
- Ongoing work on tolling and congestion pricing;
- Bill review training in Workday;
- Testimony University



# Questions

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