



MULTNOMAH COUNTY  
**FY 2023 Budget Work Session Follow Up**

**Question: Commissioner Jayapal (District 2)** – Please explain how the ARP funding is being used to fund dorms and what the expectations are for future years when ARP expires.

**Response:** ARP funds are supporting two dorms for FY23 – dorms 5 and 13. One dorm is used for maintaining lower open dorm populations by providing increased physical distancing where the potential to spread COVID-19 is increased.

The second dorm is being utilized as part of MCSO’s pandemic response strategy during increased COVID19 activity. This specific dorm is utilized to create cohorts when positive cases arise, and is opened, when needed, in partnership with Corrections Health.

After ARP funding expires, the request would be to maintain funding for one of the two dorms, to allow for reduced populations. During the pandemic it was discovered the use of top bunks was creating a particularly vulnerable situation in our congregate settings. To combat COVID-19 outbreaks during the pandemic, top bunks were removed in all the dorms at the Inverness jail, thus reducing populations in the dorms and increasing physical distancing. MCSO would like to permanently remove these bunks, as a long-term strategy, to maintain the health and welfare of our Adults in Custody population. In addition, with the intensification of serious charges of those in custody, these modified dorm populations will increase safety for staff and Adults in Custody, lessening pressures in open dorm housing.

Finally, our long-range planning for the use of open dorms will be to leverage them for group programming to deliver needs-specific programs to our Adults in Custody. The types of programs include an ongoing women’s specific program through ‘WomenFirst’, a dorm dedicated to the needs of veterans in our custody, and a dorm aimed at supplying support to young men who find themselves in our jails. Reimagining the use of our open dorms with intentional programming, supports those who are most vulnerable in our community and in our custody and provides them the supports they need to find a path away from justice involvement.



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**Question: Commissioner Stegmann (District 4)** – Dispossession how/when do we increase that work?

**Response:** MCSO's focus on the dispossession of guns started in Jan. 2022 with the hiring of two dedicated officers to focus specifically on this work, made possible by BIT funding, which ends June 2022. We'll continue to run the program through the end of fiscal year 2023 with the addition of dedicated ARP funding and hope to then continue the work thereafter with General Fund support.

The gun dispossession initiative has been very successful to date with 276 dispossessed guns since the start of the program. In addition, MCSO has secured 431 signed 'Compliance Declarations', which are signed affidavits stating there are no fire arms in a community member's possession.

To increase our dispossession work, we would target fiscal year 2024, and it would take at least one, ideally two, additional officers to increase our results, along with additional needed storage space to store additional guns.