



**MULTNOMAH COUNTY OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
FY 2025 - 2027 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS**



Multnomah County Federal Legislative Agenda For the 119th Congress (2025–2027)

Introduction

Multnomah County partners with federal leadership and the Oregon federal delegation to improve access to quality, evidence-based services, prioritize the needs of vulnerable residents, and promote an equitable, healthy, and prosperous community for all. Our advocacy efforts center on securing federal investments and policies that reflect the County's values of social justice, equity, stewardship, acceptance, and integrity.

We are equally committed to a responsive service continuum that integrates both prevention and intervention strategies to support residents of all ages, races, ethnicities, abilities, and backgrounds, particularly those least able to advocate for themselves. The County recognizes that addressing priority issues requires a collaborative, multi-system approach that weaves together resources and solutions to drive long-term progress while delivering immediate, tangible benefits to the community's most vulnerable residents.

County leadership remains dedicated to fostering cross-system collaboration to achieve sustainable results while maintaining a sharp focus on improving short-term outcomes and safeguarding federal funding for critical programs. The priorities outlined in this document reflect this dual commitment across our programs and services.

As we move forward, we will continue to monitor federal actions, engage proactively with policymakers, and uphold our commitment to ensuring that Multnomah County remains a place where all residents can thrive. Our advocacy efforts will remain solutions-oriented and grounded in the fundamental belief that protecting essential services is integral to community well-being. This moment calls for vigilance, collaboration, and unwavering dedication. Multnomah County stands ready to meet the challenge, ensuring that federal investments and policy align with the needs of those we serve.

The following outlines the County's Federal Legislative Agenda for the 119th Congress (2025-2027), including budget and policy priorities. During this Congressional term, we aim to:

[Reduce Homelessness and Improve Housing Resources](#)

[Defend Access to Health and Behavioral Health Services](#)

[Protect Supports for Vulnerable Populations](#)

[Ensure an Effective and Equitable Public Safety System](#)

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Reduce Homelessness and Improve Housing Resources

Multnomah County works collaboratively across jurisdictions and with nonprofit partners to provide a continuum of services that meet the complex needs of those experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing their housing and falling into homelessness. In collaboration with its partners, Multnomah County is committed to expanding affordable housing in the region and coordinating efforts to help people move back into permanent homes. The County prioritizes strengthening supportive services and ensuring individuals and families have the necessary resources and support to achieve stable, long-term housing.

To enact this vision, the County supports continued federal policy and investments in coordinated, community-driven efforts, such as HUD's Continuum of Care (CoC), Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV), HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), along with access to the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC). These vital funding streams must be preserved to ensure continuity of services—particularly when paired with ongoing access to rental assistance programs that provide financial stability for households with low-income. Additionally, federal funding for local homeless resource centers are essential to meet growing demand and ensure successful transitions back into permanent housing.


Finally, the County supports braided funding models that incorporate Medicaid with other supportive services, and an elevated focus on the intersection of homelessness, behavioral health (including mental health and addiction services), and the criminal justice system to address the wide range of needs of people facing chronic homelessness.

Defend Access to Health and Behavioral Health Services

Federal policy and funding serve as a cornerstone of Multnomah County's efforts to equitably promote residents' health and well-being. By adequately funding medical and behavioral health services, public health systems, and other essential programs, the County can improve the overall health of its most vulnerable residents and provide the care they need to thrive.

Sustained and expanded federal funding for critical programs such as Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Medicare is essential to ensuring continued access to behavioral health services that improve the health and well-being of vulnerable populations. Equally, federal funding to address addiction within carceral settings and the flexibility provided by Oregon's Medicaid waiver allow the County to braid funding sources to address complex needs in settings where individuals would otherwise go untreated. Multnomah County also supports federal funding for community-based healthcare initiatives that ensure underserved communities can access culturally responsive care, particularly for individuals impacted by economic hardship, systemic inequities, and chronic health conditions.

Sustained federal public health investments prevent disease and promote health for everyone who lives and visits the county by monitoring, reporting, and mitigating the spread of infectious diseases; keeping food and water systems safe; working with communities to build neighborhoods that are easier to walk through and include improved access to healthy food options; assuring businesses, schools and hospitals are



prepared to respond to emergencies and climate events; supporting new parents and infants seeking nutrition supports; and communicating linguistically and culturally specific information about emerging health issues like extreme heat, measles, or E. coli.

Protect Supports for Vulnerable Populations

Long-standing inequities, rising inflation, and systemic barriers continue to strain the ability of vulnerable individuals and families—including immigrants and refugees, BIPOC communities, LGBTQIA+ communities, and residents with low income—to meet basic needs. Strong federal support systems are more critical than ever to safeguard the well-being of all Multnomah County residents and to reduce economic disparities for vulnerable populations.

Multnomah County supports and defends federal entitlements such as Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare, along with means-tested safety net programs like SNAP, TANF, and WIC, which provide essential assistance to the County's residents most at risk. The County is committed to investing in workforce development programs that expand access to job training, career pathways, and skill-building opportunities that empower individuals to secure stable employment and achieve long-term economic mobility. Access to stable employment and broadband connectivity further strengthen pathways to economic stability and community resilience.

Ensure an Effective and Equitable Public Safety System


Multnomah County is committed to fostering a public safety system that balances accountability with rehabilitation, invests in community-driven solutions, and ensures all residents feel safe and supported. An effective public safety system prioritizes justice, fairness, and community well-being, which are essential for fostering trust and creating a safe and thriving community for everyone.

Public safety partners are working collaboratively to implement interlinked strategies that address challenges in the community while maintaining a commitment to justice reform, prevention, and rehabilitation. To strengthen these efforts, the County supports expanded federal investment in violence prevention initiatives, including youth violence prevention programs and early intervention services. Additionally, Multnomah County advocates for sustained federal funding for reentry programs and supportive services that assist individuals in successfully transitioning back into their communities.

By prioritizing investments in community-based public safety strategies and addressing the root causes of crime, Multnomah County remains committed to building an equitable and effective public safety system that promotes long-term community well-being, safety, and accountability.

Strengthening Tribal Consultation Capacity

Multnomah County supports policies that strengthen Tribal consultation capacity by advocating for increased funding and resources to ensure Tribes can fully engage as sovereign governments in decision-making processes. The County recognizes that meaningful engagement with Tribal nations is essential to advancing equity, preserving sovereignty, and enhancing community well-being. As federal consultation requirements expand across agencies, Multnomah County urges sustained investment in Tribal staffing,



infrastructure, and consultation processes to eliminate barriers that limit engagement. Without adequate support for staffing and infrastructure, Tribal nations and local governments risk missing opportunities to develop and implement culturally responsive, equitable programs that effectively serve the region's Native American population.

Strengthen Racial Justice and Civil Rights

Multnomah County is committed to advancing equity and justice by transforming local systems that have historically harmed Black and other communities of color, as well as LGBTQIA+ communities. Consistent with our Mission, Vision and Values, Multnomah County will continue to advocate for the protection of voting rights, the codification of discrimination protections, and immigration policies that align with our status as a Sanctuary Jurisdiction. This includes the continuation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, as well as protections for the legal status of refugees and asylum seekers. By prioritizing these values, supporting community-driven solutions, and embedding racial equity in all aspects of governance, the County strives to build a more just, safe, and inclusive future for all residents.

Improve Resiliency

Multnomah County collaborates with regional and state partners to plan and oversee emergency management efforts that protect residents and infrastructure from disasters. These partnerships have a long-standing record of effective response while continuing to plan and implement mitigation efforts for a potential Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and the increasing threats posed by wildfires, wildfire smoke, and extreme heat.

The County supports full federal funding for Community Emergency and Resilience Hubs as well as FEMA disaster recovery resources to ensure communities remain safe and prepared. The County is committed to preserving critical infrastructure investments, including Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge, the Interstate Bridge Replacement project, Rose Quarter redevelopment, general bridge safety, and transportation network improvements, including those in unincorporated portions of the County. These investments are essential for disaster preparedness, emergency response, and economic stability.

Strengthen and Leverage Partnerships to Support the Region's Economic Vitality

Multnomah County is committed to strengthening and leveraging regional, state, and national partnerships to enhance and sustain regional economic vitality in ways that benefit all residents. The County advocates for the continued availability of tax-exempt municipal bonds as a key funding mechanism for infrastructure projects, job development programs, and small business development. The County supports the inclusion of Build America Bonds and Private Activity Bonds as part of upcoming tax policy discussions, recognizing their role in financing critical projects. As the economic hub of the state, Multnomah County depends on a robust trade landscape and remains committed to safeguarding regional trade policies that sustain the local economy. To further these efforts, the County will continue to support policies that foster regional economic resilience and inclusive prosperity for all communities.