

# MULTNOMAH COUNTY

## FY 2025 Budget Work Session Follow Up

**Dept. of County Management (DCM)**

**May 2, 2024**

**Due: May 9, 2024**



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### **Commissioner Stegmann (District 4)**

1. Please provide information in the future on the Medicaid 1115 Waiver. **FY 2025 Briefing Requested**

#### **Response:**

During the DCM budget presentation, we referenced one aspect of Oregon's Medicaid 1115 Waiver: specifically, the new opportunity to fund health related social needs for those enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan. These needs include climate benefits (such as A/C units), nutrition benefits, and housing benefits. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is setting initial parameters for how these benefits can be administered (and who is eligible).

County governments and community based organizations are in active conversations to evaluate how to distribute health related social needs benefits in line with OHA's rules. The Office of the Chief Operating Officer convened a cross departmental project team and Policy Committee with participation from Government Relations, Joint Office of Homeless Services, Department of County Human Services, and Health Department. Maximizing Medicaid 1115 benefits is a priority listed in the Homeless Response Action Plan (HRAP), and we will continue to support that outcome.

We would be happy to offer a FY 2025 briefing about the health related social needs aspects of the Medicaid 1115 waiver as directed by the Board.

2. Please provide the Board with the most current [Construction Diversity Equity Fund \(72044A\)](#) report.

**Response:**

**Part 1**

The Regional Construction Workforce Diversity Funder Collaborative (72044B) is a group of public entities who aim to improve racial and gender diversity of regional construction trades workforce. The County has committed to provide \$200,000 annually over a five year period (FY25 being year 3). The collaborative is made up of Multnomah County, City of Portland, Washington County, Clackamas County, Metro, TriMet, Prosper Portland, State Bureau of Labor and Industries, and Portland Community College. The regional partners have been working with the Construction Career Pathways Funder Collaborative facilitated by Worksystems. The collaborative recently awarded \$742K to Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC), Portland Youth Builders, Oregon Tradeswomen, and LatinoBuild to support the training of 45 pre-apprentices and provide support services to 25 registered apprentices. We expect the referenced funds to be spent by 6/30/25. In addition to the figures referenced above the regional collaborative has helped train 162 pre-apprentices and helped employ 121 individuals (59 on construction careers). A report is currently being developed (dashboard form) that will be available in the month of July. We will share a full report with the Board when it becomes available.

## **Part 2**

Separate from the Regional Construction Workforce Diversity Collaborative, the County has the Construction Diversity and Equity Fund (CDEF). The County program assists women and minorities in increasing their skills and securing jobs in the construction trades. It also provides assistance to businesses owned by these groups. The program is funded by a 1% charge on construction costs associated with major County capital projects. Funding historically happens at substantial completion of the project.

Program funds support three key initiatives: pre-apprenticeship programs, support and retention services for women and minority apprentices (e.g. providing tools, safety equipment, and other on the job supports), and mentoring/training for State certified minority owned, women-owned, service disabled veteran owned businesses, and emerging small businesses.

The CDEF program provided direct support to 107 Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) registered apprentices, 92 of which have continued their BOLI registered programs for an 86% retention rate. We have funded 18 pre-apprentices through a 10 week pre-apprenticeship program through the NECA-IBEW 48 Electrical and technical assistance/mentoring/training to 32 COBID certified businesses.

In the current year, CDEF is also funding five COBID certified businesses through the Mentor-Protégé program with the Port of Portland. This three-year program pairs each protégé firm with two mentors in their industry who work with the small

business to develop a strategic plan specific to the needs of the small business and overcome obstacles the firm is facing. Additionally we are re-procuring the technical assistance service provider pool to increase the types of services offered to COBID businesses and increase the number of firms reached.

### **Commissioner Beason (District 2)**

1. Please provide more information on the [Trauma Informed Program Coordinator \(72020C\)](#)

#### **Response:**

The County has seen a steep rise in employees experiencing traumatic and crisis events within the workplace. This uptick began as a result of COVID-19 and has persisted amidst the ongoing crises faced by our communities. Some examples include: patron drug overdoses in the Library, threats in Elections, gun violence at WIC, assaults outside of County buildings, employee suicidal ideation, and employee and client deaths by suicide, amongst others.

The Trauma Response Program within the Employee Wellness program would provide trauma-informed expertise and resources to employees, managers and Human Resources staff through trauma and crisis prevention, response, and post-crisis efforts.

The County has acknowledged the importance of providing support to employees in response to traumatic events. And there is a growing recognition that a proactive approach to providing timely intervention and response is crucial to promoting healing and resilience. A centralized trauma

response coordinator will provide support for employees, managers, and HR teams through some of the most difficult situations experienced by our workforce.

In addition to being an on-the-ground support after critical incidents, this position will work with stakeholders to build frameworks and protocols for responding to traumatic and crisis events that center equity; implement countywide trainings on trauma response, grief readiness, and mental health first aid; and consult on countywide trauma response initiatives and resources.