

Multnomah County
FY 2027 Budget Work Session Follow Up

Homeless Response System (HRS)
May 5, 2026



Commissioner Brim Edwards (District 2)

Can you provide the assumptions that are being used for each of the scenarios in slides 17-19?

Response:

We narrated these assumptions during our presentation of slides 15 - 19, but as a recap: Slides 17-19 depict the total number of people known to be experiencing homelessness in Multnomah County each month from January 2025 - February 2026 (depicted as the magenta bars in each graph), as recorded in the [“By Name List” maintained by the Homeless Services Department](#) and drawn from publicly-funded homeless services utilization data.

Each slide then depicts different estimated changes in total numbers of people experiencing homelessness over the course of FY 2027 (depicted as the various lines projected forward in each graph), based on estimated impacts of changes to inflow to homelessness (people new to the BNL or returning to the BNL after having left the BNL due to being housed or becoming inactive), or outflow from homelessness (people leaving the BNL to inactivity or housing) associated with FY 2027 funding decisions before the Board of County Commissioners and Portland City Council.

Inflow projections are estimated by comparing recent inflow trends to relative differences in the level of investment in imminent eviction

prevention efforts from one fiscal year to the next. These estimates are less precise, and more directional.

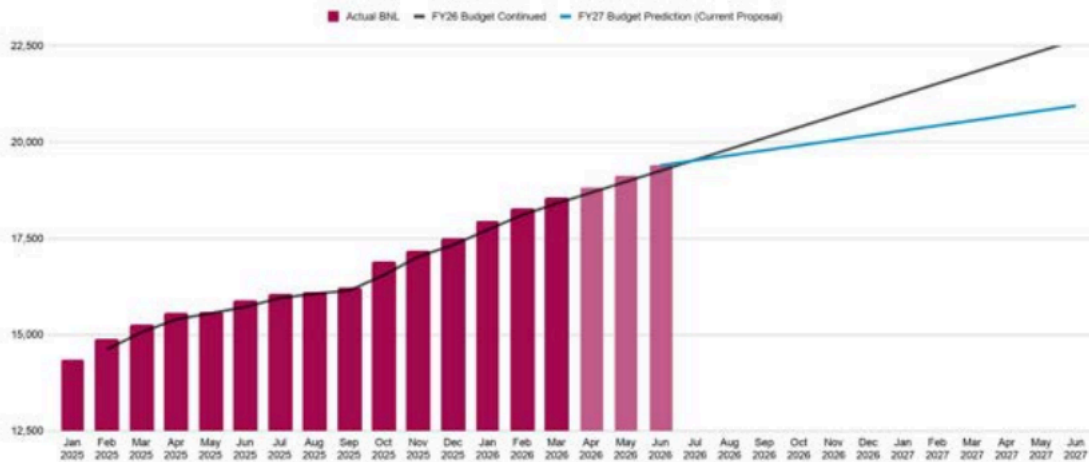
Outflow estimations are much more straightforward: for every person we rehouse from the streets or shelter - we decrease our “By Name List” by one and increase our housing placement by one. Estimations use either projected placement outcomes described in individual program offers, or standardized cost-per-placement assumptions developed in collaboration with the Homeless Services Department and Portland Solutions.

Slide 17 illustrates the estimated combined impacts to inflow and outflow due to the FY 2027 proposed executive budgets from the Multnomah County Chair and Portland Mayor, as compared to current performance in FY26 (“status quo”). Slide 18 adds an additional scenario that combines the estimated inflow and outflow impacts of the FY 2027 executive proposed budgets, plus the estimated inflow reductions associated with a potential additional \$7.8M investment of federal Medicaid housing stabilization and eviction prevention resource (This would require a budget amendment through the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners to realize.). Slide 19 builds on the scenario in Slide 18, by adding the estimated outflow impacts of an additional \$5M investment in housing placement. *(This would require budget amendment(s) at either Multnomah County or the City of Portland to realize - and the funds don't necessarily have to come from within local budgets.)*

Again, the slides illustrate estimated total numbers of people experiencing homelessness. In the presentation, we additionally narrated estimations of the subset of those who might be experiencing unsheltered homelessness by the end of FY 2027. Those estimations built from projections of total homelessness, and incorporated estimates of the number of individuals we are able to

serve in shelter at any given time based on our present understanding of the total number of shelter beds funded through the combined proposed executive budgets.

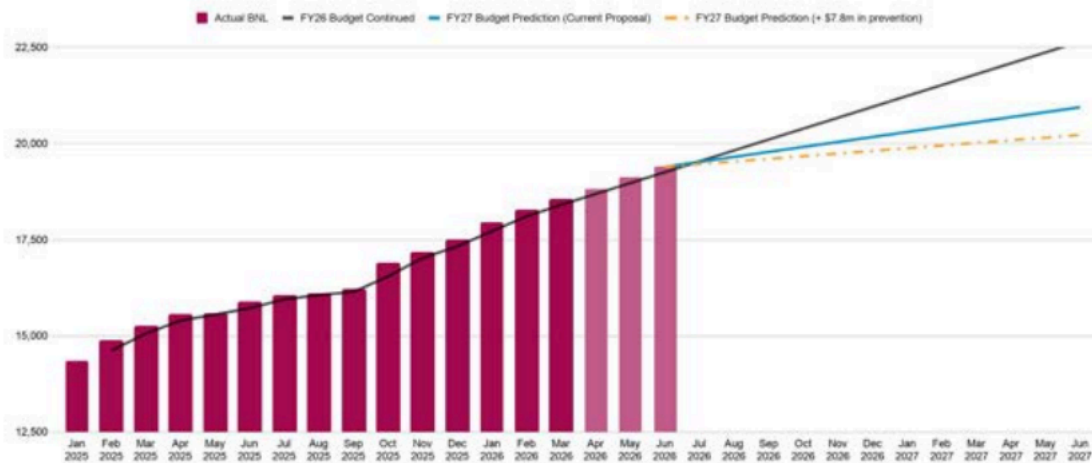
Executive Proposed Budgets - Approve As Is



HRS - Budget Work Session - May 2026

17

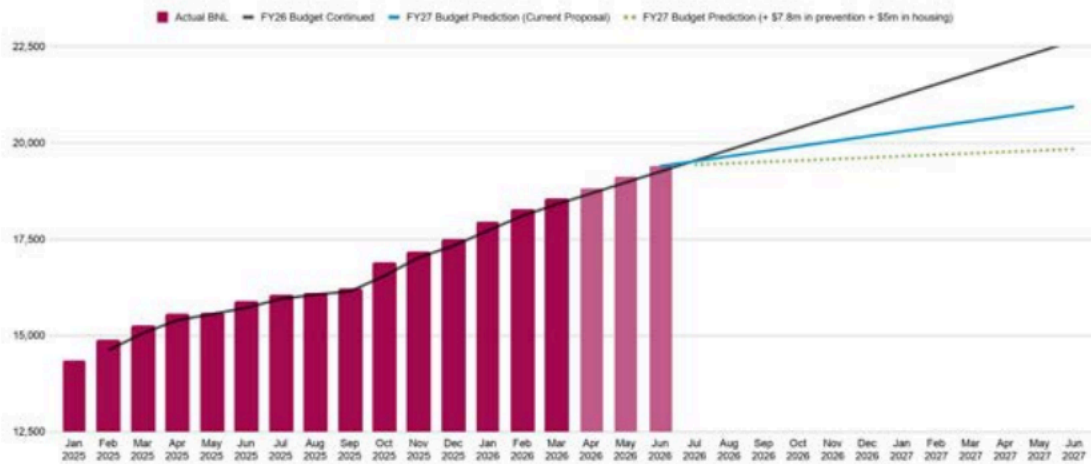
Increase Level of Effort - Inflow



HRS - Budget Work Session - May 2026

18

Increase Level of Effort - Inflow & Outflow



Commissioner Moyer (**District 1**)

Can you overlay the demographics of who is being served in these scenarios? How are we projecting impacts to sub groups?

Response:

As addressed during the meeting, these are system level projections. Following this presentation, the Homeless Services Department presented demographic data for shelter and housing placement. Associated with the HSD presentation is an appendix of additional demographic data.

HSD Presentation:

www.multco.us/file/fy_2027_homeless_services_department_presentation_-_updated/download

Commissioner Brim Edwards (District 3)

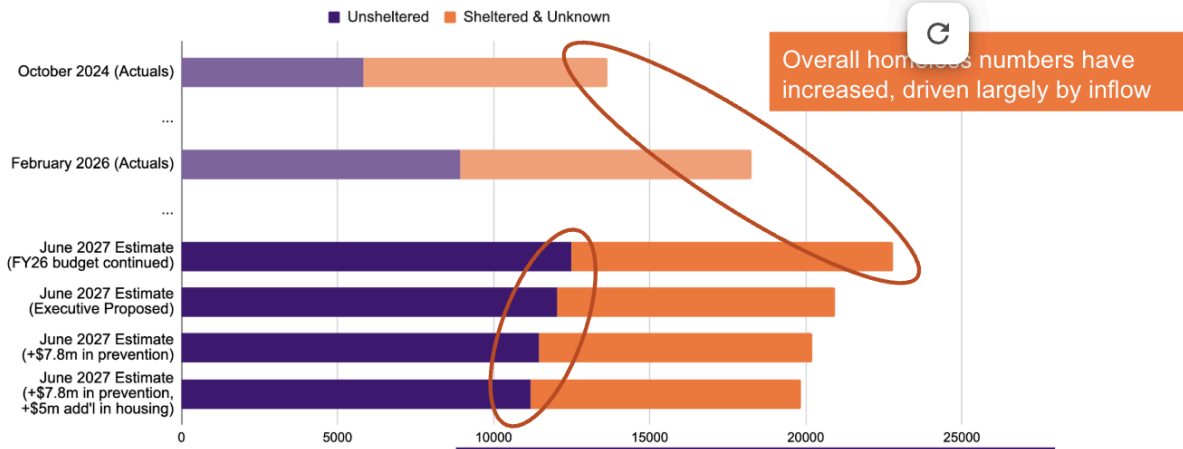
For KPI #8 can you provide a graph on unsheltered homeless (including past years data) regardless of what we are predicting for future outcomes?

Response:

The graph below is what we sent to the board via email on May 5 (following the work session). As we described in the work session, we have seen persistent increases in both total and unsheltered homelessness over the past several years, even in the midst of record investment in an array of homeless services. This is driven most significantly by persistently high inflow to homelessness and an unbalanced overreliance on new shelter investments compared to investments that would keep people from becoming homeless in the first place or quickly return people experiencing homelessness to housing and stability.

As both the City of Portland and Multnomah County face major year-to-year declines in revenue to support homeless services for FY 2027, there are few viable investment scenarios that are estimated to fully reverse the current trend. That said, some scenarios see significantly less harmful outcomes than others and begin to bend the curve toward reducing overall homelessness. As you can see in the following chart, unsheltered homelessness worsens significantly if we change nothing about our current investment strategy. In the other scenarios, where we invest less in shelter to invest more in prevention and placement, increases in unsheltered homelessness are less severe.

Unsheltered Homelessness - KPI #8



Overall homeless numbers have increased, driven largely by inflow

Budget scenarios that increase investments in prevention and placement improve the overall trends, both for total homelessness and unsheltered.



Caveats on Estimated Data

- The estimates in these slides are just that. They use a series of assumptions that are necessarily imperfect to help to gain a general sense of the direction associated with different policy decisions.
- The estimates cannot perfectly forecast future rates of homelessness, including unsheltered homelessness. This is particularly true because factors influencing inflow to homelessness (e.g. widespread layoffs, increasing cost of living, state and federal policy decisions) are unpredictable and primarily out of local control. At this stage in the local budget process, changes to shelter capacity are also not fully known.
- That said, the estimates use our best existing data to provide the clearest guidance we've been able to offer locally to help elected officials understand how their budget and policy decisions might impact broader system performance.



FY 2027 Future Briefings

Commissioner Singleton ▾ (District 2 ▾)

Invite the City of Portland Housing Bureau and Home Forward do a presentation on the state of affordable housing in Multnomah County.

Response:

See [this recording](#) of a recent Homelessness Response System Steering and Oversight Committee for a similar presentation in the meantime.

Commissioner Brim Edwards ▾ (District 3 ▾)

Future iterations of HRS data and the Homeless Response Plan focusing the data on Population A vs. B. Understanding which investments primarily serve Population A. An example would be to understand how much Eviction Prevention funding supports Population A.