

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Proclaiming December 1, 2025 as World AIDS Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

Multnomah County Finds:

- A. World AIDS Day is recognized each year on December 1st. As global citizens, we are all impacted by the ongoing epidemic of HIV and AIDS. We all have a status. This day serves to increase HIV awareness and knowledge, and to stand with people experiencing stigma related to their HIV status. World AIDS Day is an opportunity to remember all those we have lost, honor those who fought (and continue to fight) for just and equitable access to high-quality prevention, treatment, and care, and commit to continuing the progress that our communities need and deserve. The 2025 World AIDS Day theme is “Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response.”
- B. This community was born out of “disruption.” Amidst the initial outbreak in the U.S., community members, patients, and activists rose up in response to the egregious federal government indifference and inaction to the enormous suffering and nearly 450,000 lives that were lost to HIV/AIDS by the 1990s. These persistent collective efforts were critical to initiating local, regional, and eventually federal programs that were desperately needed and long overdue. It took nearly 2 years from the first AIDS case for a dedicated federal funding bill to be passed for AIDS research and treatment. This year marks 35 years of federal funding for comprehensive HIV/AIDS care and treatment.
- C. The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program supports Multnomah County’s partnership with the Portland Area HIV Services Planning Council in this regional mission. This includes Clackamas, Columbia, Washington, Yamhill, and Clark County (in WA state). The Planning Council is a 30-member community-led group of people with lived experience, community advocates, and service providers. About half of Council members are people living with HIV. This diverse group works to ensure community voices are centered in regional HIV service decision-making. They help oversee a critical network of care for low-income people living with HIV.
- D. Today we celebrate progress thanks to the tireless efforts of clients, community advocates, and service providers. People living with HIV who reach viral suppression can live long, healthy lives, with no risk of HIV transmission. In 2023, 91% of clients nationally receiving HIV medical care reached viral suppression. Our regional rate is up to an impressive 93%.

- E. However, in 2023, Oregon and our region experienced an uptick in new cases, and persistent inequities require a transformative AIDS response. People of color, youth, and transgender women experience a disproportionate burden of new HIV and AIDS cases. A third of all new cases in Oregon are among people aged 25-34. People who use drugs and people with prior STI diagnoses are also at increased risk. Our communities need ongoing, dedicated support to gain and sustain progress amidst new and concerning threats to our overall safety net, the braided and interdependent funding that supports it, and to our most impacted community members themselves. We need syndemic approaches to prevention and treatment, including a robust, well-funded, service system; harm reduction services; culturally-responsive programs, and staff with lived experience.
- F. Multnomah County will stay committed to the “End HIV in Oregon Strategy” that: 1) Testing is easy, 2) Prevention works, and 3) Treatment saves lives. An integrated community approach is critical to address these disparities as the concurrent public health crisis of racism continues to harm our most impacted populations.
- G. Multnomah County affirms our commitment to the health, wellbeing, and safety of people in our community living with HIV and AIDS with a range of County services. The Health Services Center is a critical medical provider for people living with HIV or AIDS in the region, and the Behavioral Health Division’s Promoting Access To Hope program helps ensure substance use treatment support for vulnerable residents with co-occurring conditions, and we work closely with a host of incredible community agencies.
- H. Multnomah County is fortunate to honor all of our siblings, neighbors, friends and family affected by HIV through an ongoing display of a historic National AIDS Quilt panel at the Gladys McCoy Building lobby. The AIDS Quilt is a hand-made and community-led commemoration of the resilient community members who fought bravely against this complex disease. Its ongoing presence in this public space serves as a daily reminder of collective remembrance, honoring, and learning from these powerful ancestors, so we too can take courageous action for a future that serves us all.

Multnomah County Proclaims:

In observance of Annual World AIDS Day on December 1, 2025, in Multnomah County, Oregon, we reaffirm our support for people living with and affected by HIV, and remember those community members who have lost their lives to AIDS.

SIGNED this 3rd day of December, 2025.

REVIEWED:

JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By:

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SPONSORED BY: Multnomah County Health Department.