

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation

Multnomah County Finds:

A. The 2026 Oregon Suicide Prevention Month theme, “**All of Us for All of Us: Building Community Connections for Suicide Prevention**,” reminds us that suicide prevention is a shared responsibility. Every resident, family, school, workplace, faith community, healthcare provider, and community organization has a role in creating environments where people feel connected, valued, and supported.

B. Suicide remains a leading public health concern affecting individuals, families, and communities throughout Multnomah County. Local data show that firearms and overdoses account for more than half of youth deaths, underscoring the importance of upstream prevention, safe storage, education, and early intervention. Persistent inequities also demonstrate the need to address the impacts of racism and other systemic inequities on health outcomes.

C. Multnomah County continues to observe disproportionate impacts among LGBTQIA2S+ populations, including transgender and nonbinary youth. Transgender and nonbinary youth represented 35% of youth deaths this calendar year, exceeding the entire previous year. Every person deserves to thrive in a community where they experience belonging, affirmation, safety, and hope.

D. While community efforts have contributed to reductions in homicide, suicide continues to claim far too many lives. These trends demonstrate that lasting progress requires collaboration across behavioral health, public health, education, healthcare, public safety, community organizations, and people with lived experience.

E. The Multnomah Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition, Big Village Coalition, and numerous community partners continue to strengthen protective factors through youth leadership opportunities, culturally responsive programming, suicide prevention training, and technical assistance. Additionally, the *Safety Starts at Home* initiative provides medication lock boxes, firearm safety devices, naloxone, and community education to residents.

F. Multnomah County is proud to partner with the Oregon Health Authority, the statewide Black Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition, and community organizations across Oregon to advance equitable suicide prevention policies and practices. We are also proud to work alongside the Behavioral Health Division’s Older Adult Behavioral Health and Crisis Services teams to develop prevention strategies that more intentionally address suicide risk amongst older adults and veterans. Through these partnerships, and through national collaborations such as *The Safe Collaborative*, we continue to elevate lived experience, reduce disparities, and build stronger systems of prevention for future generations and across the lifespan.

G. As the international campaign concludes its final year under the theme “**Changing the Narrative on Suicide,**” Multnomah County recognizes that meaningful change begins with honest conversations, compassionate action, and communities willing to replace stigma with understanding, isolation with connection, and silence with hope.

Multnomah County Proclaims:

1. September 2026 as Suicide Prevention Month in Multnomah County, encouraging every resident to learn the warning signs of suicide, engage in compassionate conversations, reduce stigma surrounding mental health, safely secure lethal means when appropriate, and connect individuals to support before a crisis occurs.

2. That suicide prevention belongs to all of us. Multnomah County reaffirms its commitment to building communities where every person knows they matter, where lived experience is welcomed, and where hope is strengthened through connection. Together, we will continue changing the narrative surrounding suicide by fostering belonging, advancing equity, and ensuring that no one has to face life’s challenges alone.

SIGNED this __ day of _____, 20__.

REVIEWED:

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

By:

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SPONSORED BY: Health Department