



Office of Commissioner Shannon Singleton

Multnomah County District 2

Media contact:

district2@multco.us

PRESS RELEASE: Singleton proposes a progressive reform package for Multnomah County budget

Commissioner Shannon Singleton released a set of progressive reforms for this year's budget. She shares her vision for a return to common-sense approaches that makes our county more affordable with better jobs, robust federal response, and ways to keep people in their homes while increasing efficiency, improving data collection and reporting, and eliminating duplicative programs.

"Multnomah County is facing federal and state cuts, as well as lower revenues because of a tough economy," said Singleton. "We need to make cuts. But we also need to make our programs work better for the families of Multnomah County. We must find pathways for people out of poverty and homelessness and into the workforce. The budget sets a roadmap for how we'll take care of people in our county."

Fighting the affordability crisis: The focus of the budget should be affordability. Last budget Commissioner Singleton refocused County Supportive Housing Services money on core homeless services. This year, the budget needs to ensure our safety net is delivering for

families, whether that's rent assistance, critical health services or services for seniors and those with disabilities. With \$610,000 investment in eviction prevention programming, we can address the issue of people falling back into homelessness. **We must save money everywhere we can to serve more people.**

"I have been saying since May 2025 that the core roles and responsibilities of the County are providing services to help people leave homelessness and move back into permanent housing. We have to right-size the homeless services system and ensure that we have many ways for people to enter the system and have their needs met—whether that is income acquisition, healthcare, mental health and addictions care, or access to affordable housing and any combination of those."

Good jobs with benefits: Commissioner Singleton led a trades and manufacturing workforce table which identified \$3.5 million in investments that would make it easier to connect Multnomah County residents with good paying jobs in the trades. **A good paying job is the best path out of poverty, and that's especially true during difficult economic times like these.**

Holding the line against Federal overreach: All levels of government should prioritize the rights and humanity of the people they serve. At Multnomah County we still do, and we can help those who are being harmed by the federal government's punitive assault on individual rights and freedom. **Upholding the constitution isn't optional.**

Homeless Services Package

For this FY27 budget, my **eviction prevention table investments** include:

- Consolidate from 6 databases to one database
- Standardize eligibility criteria so people do not have to call multiple providers to find the service they qualify for.
- Create an eviction prevention strike team modeled on Central City Concern's Supportive Team for Eviction Prevention (STEP) team to serve Home Forward properties.

- Reduce the duplicative government administrative overhead at the City of Portland and Multnomah County by consolidating:
 - Legal services for eviction prevention at the City of Portland
 - Rent assistance for eviction prevention at the County

Economic Development and Workforce Investments Package

For this FY27 budget, my **proposed workforce investments** include:

- \$287,000 to help Preschool for All providers overcome permitting barriers so we can open more small businesses and accelerate to universal preschool.
- \$400,000 for the pre-apprenticeship stability investment to provide wraparound services like GED and childcare to 40 workers.
- \$1.6M for benefits retention for pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and other training programs.
- Invest \$500,000 in County funds for clinical supervision of behavioral health interns for Preschool for All sites in coordination with the Balmer Institute.
- \$500,000 in County funds to support an additional 44 addictions credentials and 10 mental health clinicians through the behavioral health apprenticeship program.
- Funding summer works at \$285,000 again this year to provide 50 jobs for youth to both increase their opportunities and invest in proven violence prevention strategies.

Federal Response and Community Safety

For this FY27 budget, my proposed **federal response and community safety** include:

- Maintaining legal services that I proposed in FY26
- Investing in emergency food and immigration supports
- Investing in our pretrial program
- Making sure we are investing in behavioral healthcare services
- Investments in the deflection and sobering center