

Department: Nondepartmental **Program Contact:** Neisha Saxena
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

The Multnomah Youth Commission (MYC) the official youth policy body for Multnomah County and the City of Portland, is a group of 42 young people, ages 13- 21, from majority Black, Indigenous and People of Color Communities (BIPOC), that strives to amplify youth perspectives on policy impacting and relevant to youth, their families, peers, and community. In addition to its commission role within local government, the MYC works to improve the community through Social Justice projects, and by shifting negative community perceptions about youth. The work of MYC is guided by "Our Bill of Rights: Children + Youth," the nation's first Bill of Rights written by and for young people and adopted by a local government.

Program Summary

The Multnomah Youth Commission advises and makes recommendations on policies and programs that impact youth through focused, issue-specific committee work, the Elected Official Liaison program, and training and technical assistance. MYC uses authentic youth engagement practices and tools to build the capacity of youth to participate in high-level policy advocacy to ensure that young people form relationships with caring adults, build skills, exercise leadership, and help their communities as they develop into healthy, productive adults. The MYC is a nationally recognized model using participatory action research, policy creation and advocacy, and Youth-Adult Partnership as its foundational underpinnings. The MYC has made an intentional and sustained effort over time to ensure that a majority of youth commissioners come from BIPOC Communities and embed equity and social justice into all of the work.

MYC's current policy focus areas are driven and led by youth and selected through youth outreach and engagement. These projects empower youth to take lead and work together to address issues most important to their communities, while highlighting and sharing ideas and experiences to build youth-led solutions. In the past several years, those include:

- Youth Against Violence committee: working to change the way violence is viewed and dealt with, eliminating police violence, gang violence and sexual and dating violence
- Transit Equity and Environmental Advocacy committee: focus on transit justice issues and expanding TriMet's YouthPass program region wide
- Education/Youth Voice committee: organizing candidates forums and working to combat chronic absenteeism by pushing back high school start times to 8:45 am or later.

The Office of Diversity and Equity (ODE) provides leadership and resources for advancing organizational equity and inclusion change efforts. ODE works in collaboration with departments and offices and serves as equity, inclusion and social justice resource at Multnomah County. The MYC sits within the Office of Diversity and Equity.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budgeted	FY22 Estimate	FY23 Offer
Output	Youth Commission Meetings held	22	22	21	22
Outcome	Youth-led policies impacted and/or advocated for	12	12	12	12
Output	Number of partnerships established	10	11	12	12
Outcome	Number of Youth-led forums and/or events held	4	5	6	5

Performance Measures Descriptions

There were more youth-led forums this fiscal year because of COVID and because 2022 is an election year.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2022	2022	2023	2023
Personnel	\$147,804	\$0	\$154,983	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$19,996	\$0	\$20,017	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$167,800	\$0	\$175,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$167,800		\$175,000	
Program FTE	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2022: 10017B Multnomah Youth Commission Support

Due to the multiple pandemics of anti-Black racism, increased gun violence, and COVID-19, and their impact on BIPOC youth commissioners, the work of the MYC has and will continue to shift to respond to changing needs. With continued focus on core areas of work, the MYC is also:

- Increasing the level of collaboration with youth-led organizations and city and county, co-leading efforts to identify and carry out shared projects and goals to better address the rising needs among youth, particularly related to youth mental health and violence prevention
- Addressing and resolving barriers for youth civic engagement including mental health referrals, and coaching support.