



Program #10018C - Climate Resilience Coordinator

3/7/2022

Department: Nondepartmental **Program Contact:** John Wasitynski
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: Out of Target

Executive Summary

Climate risks have moved from being a future danger to a present threat. Unprecedented climate fueled environmental disasters have pummeled Multnomah County with dire consequences for Multnomah County residents. While short term interventions focused on improved sheltering strategies and outreach are critical, medium to long term policy interventions are also needed. This position will coordinate and catalyze these medium to long term programmatic and policy interventions.

Program Summary

Over the past several years Multnomah County has experienced unprecedented impacts from the climate crisis. For example, prior to 2016 the Department of Environmental Quality, which monitors air quality, had not recorded a wildfire smoke intrusion in Multnomah County since monitoring had begun. Since that time, wildfire smoke has become a seasonal hazard that impacts County residents on a nearly annual basis. Wildfire activity has also impacted Multnomah County, with the Eagle Creek Fire directly threatening homes in Multnomah County, to nearby wildfires forcing displaced households into Multnomah County shelters. Wildfires and wildfire smoke, are just two examples of the many natural phenomena that are being made worse, more intense, and more frequent due to global heating, threatening the lives and safety of Multnomah County residents.

Indeed, the list of threats from the climate crisis are year round and worsening. Besides those threats already mentioned, others include, drought, worsening air quality, flooding, impacts to drinking water, and extreme heat. Extreme heat alone was responsible for the deaths of over 68 people in Multnomah County during the 'heat dome' event in June 2021. The 'June 2021 Extreme Heat Event Preliminary Findings and Action Steps' report stated that the "[d]ramatic negative impacts of the climate crisis that seemed far off are hurting our community today. This is a moment for the County to redouble our efforts to both mitigate and prepare for the worst effects of climate change."

The Climate Resilience Coordinator will implement and catalyze climate resilience policy within Multnomah County and across local and state agencies; e.x. assist with wildfire mitigation zoning updates, low income weatherization policy, co-develop best practices for public buildings to mitigate extreme heat and smoke conditions, coordinate with local governments on heat island mitigation strategies, update county administrative rules, build capacity for research and science based best practices, focus on partnerships with less resourced east county cities.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budgeted	FY22 Estimate	FY23 Offer
Output	Number of county policies updated or adopted.	N/A	N/A	N/A	3
Outcome	Increase cross departmental collaboration and climate resilience capacity in Multnomah County.	N/A	N/A	N/A	10%

Performance Measures Descriptions

County policies may include updated administrative procedures, Board resolutions, or planning documents. A survey tool will be used to help determine baseline climate resilience capacity and changes to that capacity over time.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2022	2022	2023	2023
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$147,164	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$836	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$148,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$148,000	
Program FTE	0.00	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:

This program offer adds 1.00 FTE program specialist senior.