

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

**PROCLAMATION NO. 2021-089**

Proclaiming December 1, 2021 as World AIDS Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- A. World AIDS Day is recognized each year on December 1st. The theme for World AIDS Day 2021 is “Ending the HIV Epidemic: Equitable Access, Everyone’s Voice.” The purpose of World AIDS Day is to bring attention to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) epidemic, to increase HIV awareness and knowledge, and to stand with people experiencing stigma related to their HIV status. World AIDS Day began, and continues to be, a solemn opportunity for remembrance, a time to mourn all the souls we’ve lost, a time to allow our righteous anger to show, and a time to reflect on what could have been. And an opportunity to look ahead with optimism.
  
- B. Multnomah County supports this theme through our continued commitment to implementing the “END HIV in Oregon Strategy” that includes three key points: 1) Testing is easy, 2) Prevention works, and 3) Treatment saves lives. In Multnomah County, forty-six percent (1,082/2,364) of new HIV diagnoses in Oregon from 2009–2018 were among Multnomah County residents.
  
- C. It is critical to recognize that HIV and AIDS disproportionately impact people of color. The most recent national data shows that Black/African American (41%/13%), Hispanic/Latino (23%/18%) are over-represented in the number of new cases of HIV when compared to the total population. Men and male-identified people under age 35 of all races and ethnicities who are gay or bisexual represent 46% of all new HIV infections. A community approach is critical as we continue to

address these disparities during concurrent public health crises of racism and COVID-19 impacting our most vulnerable populations.

- D. Multnomah County affirms our commitment to the health, wellbeing, and safety of people in our community living with HIV and AIDS through services and programs offered across County departments. This World AIDS Day is a significant milestone, marking 40 years since the first people were diagnosed with the condition that would come to be known as HIV. Advancements in treatment and prevention have shifted the prognosis for people who are newly diagnosed from almost certain death to a chronic, but manageable condition.
- E. Multnomah County HIV Health Services Center provides comprehensive HIV/Hepatitis C virus medical and social services. Throughout this pandemic services have remained available through the use of telehealth and telemedicine in addition to in-person visits that include same-day antiretroviral therapy for newly diagnosed persons living with HIV.
- F. The following programs and services are provided across County departments and represent diverse approaches amongst our community partners, which exemplify being responsive to the needs of our community members living with HIV. Community partners supporting this work include Cascade AIDS Project, OHSU Partnership Project, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon HIV Day Center, Quest Center for Integrative Health, Oregon Health Authority, Our House of Portland, HIV Alliance, Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living, and more.
- G. Multnomah County recognizes this moment in our history by displaying two panels of the historic National AIDS Quilt. The panels are currently on display at the Gladys McCoy Building and the Multnomah County East Building lobby. The AIDS Quilt is a hand-made and community-led commemoration of the brave and resilient community members and will be on display for December 2021.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:**

In observance of Annual World AIDS Day on December 1, 2021, 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.

**ADOPTED this 2nd day of December, 2021.**



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

*Deborah Kafoury*

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Deborah Kafoury, Chair

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

By *JM Madkour*

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Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

**SUBMITTED BY:** Mohammad Bader, Director of County Human Services