

Legal / Contractual Obligation

ORS 146 specifies responsibilities and authorities for the Office (i.e. deaths requiring investigation; responsibility for investigation; notification of death; removal of body; authority to enter and secure premises; notification of next of kin; authority to order removal of body fluids; autopsies; disposition of personal property; unidentified human remains). ORS 146 also establishes a hybrid State/County program structure which limits the County's authority over operations, procedures, and technical functions.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$107,175	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$76	\$0
Internal Services	\$0	\$0	\$18,933	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$126,184	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$126,184	
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:

The Multnomah County Medical Examiner's Office (MCMEO) currently employs a staff of eight full-time Deputy Medical Examiners (aka Death Investigators) and one Chief Deputy Medical Examiner to cover an ORS-required 24/7/365 operation. Medical Examiner offices nationally, with comparable populations and caseload, employ between 10-13 investigative staff to respond to calls and manage caseload. Medical Examiner caseload steadily increases each year due to increases in overall population and increases in deaths requiring investigation (overdoses, accidents, homicides).

In FY21, the MEO managed a total of 2,631 cases, assuming jurisdiction in 1,753 cases. The MEO provided an in-person scene response in 1005 of the 2,631 cases. Of the 2,631 cases, approximately 400 are hospital deaths that do not require in-person investigation. The MEO experienced a 25% increase in jurisdiction cases due to increased cases involving overdoses, accidents, homicides, suicides and COVID-19. Additionally, there was a 35% increase in calls providing in-person investigation from FY20. The MEO was unable to respond in-person to approximately 40% of our overall cases due to staffing insufficiencies.