



## Employment Programs NOFA Released in FY23

### Project Title: Low-Barrier Employment Programs Expansion

Issue Date: **10/28/2022**

Responses Due: **11/18/2022**

Not Later Than: **5:00 PM**

LATE RESPONSES WILL NOT BE  
CONSIDERED

Refer Questions to: *Natalie Arreola*, [natalie.arreola@multco.us](mailto:natalie.arreola@multco.us)

Thank you for your expressed interest in providing Low-Barrier Employment Programs Services Expansion as part of the Multnomah County Local Implementation Plan for the Metro Supportive Housing Services Measure. If you remain interested, please review the scope provided and submit responses to the questions outlined in the instructions below by 5:00 PM on Friday, November 18th, 2022. Replies should be sent as an attachment to an email addressed to: [natalie.arreola@multco.us](mailto:natalie.arreola@multco.us) and [anna.pendas@multco.us](mailto:anna.pendas@multco.us). Responses will be used to evaluate and prioritize providers for contracted services qualified through the formal procurement processes: RFPQ 26-2019, RFPQ 51-2020, and Tri-County RFPQ.

---

**Background and Scope:** In the Spring of 2020, voters in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties passed the first-ever regional tax to support homeless services. This new funding significantly increases services for people experiencing homelessness. Measure 26-210, the Metro Supportive Housing Services Measure (Measure), is a funding stream approved by voters to address homelessness and housing stability, prioritizing Communities of Color.

As part of the Measure, Multnomah County developed The Multnomah County Local Implementation Plan (LIP) which sets out a range of strategies to reduce homelessness



by increasing permanent housing and wrap around services for those experiencing, or at risk of, chronic homelessness and episodic homelessness. The LIP strategies prioritize the recommendations of the community and Measure commitment to eliminating racial disparities among people experiencing chronic and episodic homelessness. The LIP also recognizes that in this initial phase of Measure funding, there is a priority need to address the economic impact of COVID-19, which threatens to displace large numbers of disproportionately Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) households into homelessness and create additional barriers for people who are already homeless to return to housing.

One of the commitments in the LIP is reducing homelessness through strategies that lead with racial equity, including a significant expansion of employment-related programming focused on creating low-barrier employment opportunities for people experiencing homelessness. Current employment programs include initiatives around trash removal, public space maintenance, and hygiene services. Participants earn income, develop job skills, and establish a recent work history.

As part of the LIP's COVID-19 response investments, this program has been designed to be of limited duration for the remaining 2 of 3 years, unless and until a recommendation emerges through the forthcoming workforce planning processes for the Measure.

The Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) is launching an employment related programming expansion of \$235,000 that will prioritize low barrier employment opportunities for culturally specific service providers serving Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, individuals experiencing or at risk of long-term homelessness throughout Multnomah County.

JOHS has invited local housing and homelessness service providers who may be interested in expanding their existing employment services or developing new employment services to express their interest in becoming part of this effort.

**Program Elements:**



- Employment Services: Employment services are defined as services to provide learning and work experiences, including volunteer opportunities, for an individual to develop general, non-job tasks to employability.
- 

**Application Instructions:** Please answer the following questions in no more than a total of four (4) single-spaced pages. Only attach supplementary materials that are specifically requested – others will not be reviewed. Font should not be smaller than 11-point in size. You do not need to restate the question in your response. We only ask that you number your responses to the corresponding question.

**Questions:**

**(1) Experience with Low-Barrier Programming & Employment:** Describe your organization's understanding of effective employment strategies, and experience and approach to operating low-barrier employment services to individuals living unsheltered? If you do not have that experience, how does your work to date prepare you to program and operate low-barrier employment services? Please include in your answer how you would staff the program and train your staff.

**(2) Service Delivery Commitment:** Describe your approach to and experience providing trauma informed and person-centered support to individuals living unsheltered, including to those with serious behavioral health challenges?

Bonus: For Culturally Specific service providers, additional points may be added

Bonus: For providers with programmatic service delivery commitment to East county, additional points may be added

**(3) Racial Equity:** As a provider of employment programs services, how would you advance racial equity and ensure that services delivered are respectful of, and relevant to the beliefs, practices, culture and linguistic needs of diverse



populations and communities? Please attach your organization equity plan if you have one.

**(4) Business Operations:** Describe your experience contracting with public agencies to provide human services and what support you would need from JOHS to be a successful contractor for employment programs?

**(5) Leverage:** What resources/services does your organization have that people experiencing unsheltered homelessness could access/benefit from if you were a Collaborative partner? If you do not have internal resources to leverage, how would your organization build relationships with and collaboratively work with other system partners to support access into system services?

**(6) Experience with HMIS:** SHS funding requires HMIS data entry requirements. What is your experience with HMIS entry? What kind of support will be needed to complete this requirement?