

### Program # 70017 - Property Assessment- Special Programs (A&T)

Version 6/13/2005 s

Priority: Accountability Lead Agency: Finance Budget & Tax

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program Contact: Dave Boyer

Related Programs: 70009, 70015, 70018, 70019, 70020A, 70021, 70020B

Frameworks:

#### **Executive Summary**

The Property Assessment-Special Programs section is responsible for processing all applications for property tax exemption or special assessment and monitoring properties for continued qualification for exemption or special assessment.

#### **Program Description**

The special programs section processes over 5,900 applications annually for partial exemption for disabled veterans or surviving spouses. The program is responsible for over 10,000 accounts with full or partial charitable, fraternal, religious types of exemptions and field inspects over 500 properties annually due to new applications or to verify continued qualification. The program is responsible for specially assessed properties including farm, forest and historic properties. Over 200 income questionaires are mailed and processed to verify continued qualification for the special assessment of farm land. The program calculates Maximum Assessed Values (the Measure 50 tax limit) for over 5,000 new properties created by subdivisions, new condominiums and consolidation of accounts after they are received from Records Management. This program contributes to the process to arrive at the total taxable assessed value upon which taxes are calculated and levied for the benefit of all Multnomah County taxing districts.

#### **Program Justification**

This program contributes to the Accountability Priority by insuring that exempt and specially assessed property is properly assessed as required by the Oregon Revised Statutes. Maintaining accurate Real Market Values on all property relates to the bonding capacity and general obligation bond tax rates for all applicable taxing districts in the County.

This program contributes to all other County priorities by ensuring that all exempt and specially assessed property is valued in accordance with the law which maximizes property tax revenues to fund programs.

### Performance Measures

All Applications are processed and entered into the computer by the third week in September (deadline prior to tax calculation) annually.

## Summary of last year's program results and this year's expected results

Over 500 properties were approved for exemption due to new applications, and 826 properties were qualified for a one year exemption for "commercial facilities under construction". Over 500 properties were reviewed for continued exemption. Results will be repeated for FY 06.

# Program Mandate: 2 Mandated Program with Funding/Service Level Choice

Oregon Revised Statutes Chapters 92,205,294,305,306,307,308, 308A,309 310 and 321 and related Oregon Administrative Rules regulate virtually all aspects of the assessment and property tax calculation process.

ORS 306.115 assigns statewide general supervision of the property tax system to the Oregon Dept. of Revenue (DOR). The DOR determines the acceptable level of Assessment & Taxation staffing. They have determined that the A&T divisions are already at the minimally acceptable staffing level needed to perform its function. Any reduction to this program may jeopardize this grant revenue.

### Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2005	2005	2006	2006
Personnel	\$137,148	\$0	\$431,627	\$0
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$3,120	\$0	\$5,800	\$0
Internal Services	\$5,673	\$0	\$76,235	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$145,941	\$0	\$513,662	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$28,850	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$117,843	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$146,693	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$145,941	\$0	\$660,355	\$0
Program Total:	\$145,941		\$660,355	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	6.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$0
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$89,154	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$100,000	\$0	\$189,154	\$0

### **Explanation of Revenues**

This program is supported by General Fund revenues. Through participation in the State funded "County Assessment Function Funding Account" (CAFFA) approximately 35% of expenditures are reimbursed.

# Significant Program Changes

Current service level budget. This program was re-organized mid-year FY05 to consolidate similar processes into one area with the intent of promoting efficiency within the Assessment Division. The exemption section was renamed Special Programs and now in addition to exemptions includes specially assessed properties such as farm, forest and low income housing. The major changes in this program are the transfer of building management and IT related fees that were previously budgeted in division's administration budget as well as Finance and Human Resources Operations now spread to the programs it supports. The transfer of charges amounts to a net increase of approximately \$70,000.