

Priority: Accountability

Lead Agency: Public Affairs Office

Program Offer Type: New Program

Program Contact: Gina Mattioda

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Public Affairs Office (PAO) proposes hiring a temporary, part-time office assistant to enhance the county's role in Salem during the 2007 Legislative Session. For an estimated 6-8 months, the county's 2 lobbyists work full-time in Salem and spend a considerable amount of time on clerical and administrative duties, which impacts their ability to fully engage in policy discussions on the wide range of issues affecting the county. The proposed position would improve the county's stature in advocacy and lobbying, as well as increase opportunities for leadership on the array of budget, revenue and policy issues debated by the Legislature.

Program Description

The proposed position was developed through research of staffing levels and salaries in similar jurisdictions. In collaboration with the county's Human Resources and Budget Office, the PAO identified that the following duties classify the position as an Office Assistant Senior: maintaining files for over 1,000 bills, managing the bill tracking database, ongoing interaction with bill reviewers throughout the county, answering phones and receiving visitors, assisting in the preparation of materials (i.e., testimony, letters to legislators, fact sheets), scheduling meetings with legislators, and monitoring committee hearings and work sessions. Following the 2007 Legislature, the PAO will evaluate the effectiveness of this position.

Program Justification

The proposed PAO position is directly linked to the budget priority on accountability by supporting the goal of clear and accessible decision making. In November 2004, Multnomah County voters overwhelmingly approved the removal of the prohibition on lobbying, allowing the PAO to assert itself more vigorously into policy and budget debates at the Legislature. Prior to 2004, the PAO's role was restricted to one of monitoring legislative activity. The PAO's 2006-07 legislative work plan elevates the county's standing in state-level debates in all issues pertinent to the county, including but not limited to budget, revenue, general government, health, human services, public safety, land use and transportation. The OA Senior position is a critical element in successfully implementing the work plan by allowing time and resources currently spent by lobbyists on filing (1000+ bills), tracking (3000+ bills), corresponding with bill reviewers (100+ reviewers) and preparing documents to be spent on direct lobbying. The enhanced lobby effort will result in increased involvement, stronger coalitions and an improved ability to provide clear and frequent communications between the county and the Legislature.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY04-05)	Current Year Purchased (FY05-06)	Current Year Estimate (FY05-06)	Next Year Offer (FY06-07)
Output	Reduce lobbyists time spent on administrative and clerical tasks.	0%	0%	0%	90%
Outcome	Number of bills on which lobbyists will partner with other entities.	0	0	0	3

Performance Measure - Description

(Output #1)Enhanced legislative lobbying effectiveness and efficiency: currently, lobbyists spend at least 40% of their time on administrative and clerical tasks. The proposed temporary position would allow lobbyists to reduce this amount of time to 5-10% of their overall workload.

(Outcome #1)Enhanced participation of coalition members to collectively achieve legislative agenda items: the most successful legislative agenda items and funding priorities are achieved through the work of broad-based coalitions working collectively on a variety of fronts. The PAO intends to participate in and convene interested parties to effectively pass legislation and/or budgets to benefit county programs and services.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

None

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2006	2006	2007	2007
Program Expenses				
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$19,606	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$19,606	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$0	\$19,606	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$19,606	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

The PAO budget consists of county general fund.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: