

Priority: Accountability
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs:

Lead Agency: Citizen Involvement
Program Contact: Kathleen Todd

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC) is a fifteen-member panel of citizens from throughout the county. Acting as an independent advocate, evaluator, and monitor of County citizen involvement the CIC and its office work with County officials, departments, and the greater community to enhance opportunities for citizen participation in policy and decision-making within Multnomah County government, thereby increasing the openness of County Government.

Program Description

The CIC through the Office of Citizen Involvement uses citizen volunteers to create opportunities for citizens to learn about and help shape county policies, programs and cost of services. It provides continuous independent assessment of citizen participation opportunities, and identifies and works to remove barriers through its Departmental Reviews. It facilitates community events in cooperation with the community, elected officials and other County departments that involve and inform citizens about the County and its programs. The CIC partners with other governmental and non-governmental organizations as an advocate for citizen involvement in policy and decision-making. It coordinates the independent Citizen Budget Advisory Committees (CBACs); implements the citizen-driven annual Dedicated Fund Review; and evaluates ways to improve the use of volunteers in the County. It recognizes the time and energy of the county's volunteers by hosting an annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony for all County departments. It maintains a website as an access point for citizen involvement and volunteer opportunities/services.

Program Justification

A community of citizens actively engaged in government is fundamental to building trust and accountability in government. This program educates and informs citizens about the issues, creates citizen-interaction with the decision-makers actively engaged in arriving at solutions, and helps citizens to contribute to the final outcomes. This builds a perception of trust and confidence in County government. The program facilitates direct communication between citizens, County officials, and County staff through the its CBAC Program, which works directly with departments on operations, policies, and cost of service delivery, and conveying citizen input and proposals to officials and departments through reports, recommendations, and meetings providing direct customer voice into program development and direction. . It takes discussions on issues, county services, and budget into the community by hosting community forums, open houses, and events. The program engages citizens at the earliest possible moment, before the decisions are made. The earlier citizens are engaged in decision processes, the more valuable their contributions can be and the more likely they will feel listened to. It enhances open government through evaluation of citizen involvement processes and recommends changes as needed.

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	Annual number of CIC generated citizen involvement opportunities	2,183	728	950	800
Outcome	Total number of citizen involvement hours	5,157	1,719	1,900	1,750
Quality	Percent of volunteers and event participants who feel time was well spent	90%	90%	85%	90%

Performance Measure - Description

Current year purchased numbers are approximately one-third of previous year's results due to the loss of staff. The Director provides about one-third of the results due to administrative duties, direct committee support and project coordination. The staff person provided about two-thirds of the results because their entire focus was on obtaining results.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Chapter Re: Chapter 3.75 Multnomah County Home Rule Charter; Resolution 8-86, Resolution 95-245, Multnomah County Code 2.30.640; 3.30-3.306 1. The County Charter states that the commission "shall appropriate sufficient funds for the operation of the office and the committee". A minimum level of a Director is set by the amended enabling ordinance establishing the office with the statement that "this office shall be adequately funded".

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2006	2006	2007	2007
Program Expenses				
Personnel	\$73,757	\$0	\$76,352	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$16,414	\$0	\$16,414	\$0
Internal Services	\$35,156	\$0	\$27,843	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$125,327	\$0	\$120,609	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$125,327	\$0	\$120,609	\$0
Program Total:	\$125,327		\$120,609	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

General Fund

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #10012A, Citizen Involvement Committee

No change; this is the current service level. This funding level is not adequate to meet the charter-mandated purpose. The impact of the reduction of staffing by 50% in 05/06 has severely compromised the programs ability to meet its charter-mandated purpose. The results are: a reduction of hours of operation for the office; longer processing time for citizen requests and recommendations; fewer CIC-generated citizen involvement opportunities for the public; and increased wait time for citizens requesting information. Support required for current volunteers and recruiting volunteers into CIC-created policy roles does not leave time to assist the County with recruitment needs. The Citizen Advocate program was discontinued. The CIC continues to coordinate the CBACs but is exploring shifting both the responsibility for Non-Departmental CBAC staffing, and the process for recognizing community groups in unincorporated areas of the County to the Board of County Commissioners.