

Priority: Accountability
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program
Related Programs:

Lead Agency: Library
Program Contact: Molly Raphael

Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

Multnomah County Library is currently funded by a local option levy, a transfer from the County General Fund, and non-tax, library-generated revenues. The local option levy is subject to voter approval every five years, requires a double majority unless it is on a general election ballot, and provides over 60% of the Library's funding. An alternate permanent funding mechanism would potentially replace both the levy and the County General Fund contribution with a stable source of funding; this program offer requests money to support the work of a task force to study the political, programmatic, and financial feasibility of permanent, stable funding options.

Program Description

Multnomah County Library has been dependent upon a local option levy for a portion of its funding since the early 1970s. The 1997 levy substantially increased the Library's operating budget and was subject to the restrictions of property tax limitation measures 5 and 50 (passed in 1990 and 1997, respectively). Measure 50 dictates that local option levies are reduced or not collected if the Measure 5 cap of \$10 per \$1,000 for local government taxes is reached. This is known as compression, and it causes the Library levy rate to be higher than it would need to be absent this restriction, as seen in the increased rates needed for both the 2002 and 2006 levies.

Over the last 20-plus years, various efforts have been made to identify a stable method of funding MCL. The latest effort has been spearheaded by the Library Advisory Board, and their recommendation is to put together a working group of stakeholders to initiate discussions regarding a separate Library district or other funding mechanism. This program offer would support that discussion by providing contracting funds for a thorough analysis of the legal, financial, governance and operational impacts of a Library district.

Program Justification

In general, the Library links most strongly to the Vibrant Communities priority. Strategies that are supported by MCL include creating a sense of place, encouraging meaningful community involvement through participation in library events or as volunteers, and providing opportunities for learning, recreation and culture. The Library enjoys a strong level of community support, as evidenced by the nearly 62% voter approval received in the 2006 levy election.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY05-06)	Current Year Purchased (FY06-07)	Current Year Estimate (FY06-07)	Next Year Offer (FY07-08)
Output	Report on funding options produced	0	0	0	1
Outcome	Recommendation from stakeholder group presented to BCC	0	0	0	1

Performance Measure - Description

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2007	2007	2008	2008
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
Internal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,145
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$51,145
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$51,145
Program Total:	\$0		\$51,145	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$51,145
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$51,145

Explanation of Revenues

This offer would be funded by the Library Fund's beginning working balance.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: