

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

Lead Agency: Citizen Involvement
Program Contact: Kathleen Todd

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The County Charter establishes the Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC) as an independent panel of citizens from throughout the county that acts as an advocate, evaluator, facilitator and monitor of County citizen involvement. The CIC and its chartered office work with County officials, departments, and the greater community to enhance and expand opportunities for early citizen participation in policy and decision-making. The result is significant increase in the openness and transparency of County Government.

Program Description

The CIC, through the Office of Citizen Involvement, creates opportunities for citizens to learn about and help evaluate and 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 engage and inform citizens about the County and its programs. The CIC partners with other governmental and non-governmental organizations to act 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, transparency 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 sense of trust and confidence in County government while providing the transparency necessary to continually justify both. The CIC takes discussions on issues, county services, and budget into the community by hosting community forums, open houses, and events. The programs engage citizens at the earliest possible moment, before decisions are made. The CIC facilitates productive, proactive, and direct dialog among citizens, County officials, and County staff through its CBAC Program. This program works directly with departments on operations, policies, and cost of service delivery, and conveys citizen input, concerns and proposals to officials and departments through reports, recommendations, and meetings providing a direct customer voice into program development and direction. The earlier citizens are engaged in decision processes, the more valuable and potentially impactful their contributions can be and the more likely they will feel heard. The CIC enhances open and transparent government through continuous evaluation of citizen involvement processes in the County and recommends changes as needed.

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	Number of generated Citizen Involvement Opportunities	1,030	800	900	750
Outcome	Number of Citizen Involvement and Volunteer Hours	2,613	1,750	1,800	1,500
Quality	% of Participants attending events who felt time was well spent	93.5%	90.0%	90.0%	90.0%

Performance Measure - Description

FY 07-08 is based on one staff member who can devote a limited portion to this aspect of the program. Administration, direct committee support and project coordination consumes the remainder of current staff resources.

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".

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2007	2007	2008	2008
Program Expenses				
Personnel	\$75,477	\$0	\$84,944	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$16,414	\$0	\$16,424	\$0
Internal Services	\$27,843	\$0	\$25,473	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$119,734	\$0	\$126,841	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$119,734	\$0	\$126,841	\$0
Program Total:	\$119,734		\$126,841	
Program FTE	1.00	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 changes; this is current service level. Effects of current staffing level continue to be felt: 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 or many additional citizen involvement efforts.