

**Priority:** Safety  
**Program Offer Type:** Existing Operating  
**Related Programs:**

**Lead Agency:** District Attorney  
**Program Contact:** Scott Marcy

**Program Characteristics:**

**Executive Summary**

The ME's Office determines cause of death for residents who die in special circumstances, such as accidents, violence, drug involvement, and employment.

**Program Description**

The ME's Office determines cause of death for residents who die in special circumstances such as accidents, violence, drug involvement, and employment. Approximately 3,800 of the County's 7,000 yearly deaths fall into this category. The office is responsible for establishing cause and manner of death, notifying the next-of-kin, and protecting the property of the deceased until a personal representative takes charge. Local discretion is limited by the mandates and State Medical Examiner supervision authority arising from ORS 146. The DA's Office provides assistance when necessary.

**Program Justification**

Because the Medical Examiners Office is highly visible to the public whenever a death occurs within a community the program connects to the Communities factor of the public safety map and specifically falls under the Visible Public Safety System sub-factor.

**Performance Measures**

| Measure Type | Primary Measure                                  | Previous Year Actual (FY06-07) | Current Year Purchased (FY07-08) | Current Year Estimate (FY07-08) | Next Year Offer (FY08-09) |
|--------------|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Output       | Number of Cases                                  | 3,843                          | 3,850                            | 3,850                           | 3,850                     |
| Outcome      | Percentage of cases with positive identification | 100.0%                         | 99.5%                            | 99.0%                           | 99.0%                     |

**Performance Measure - Description**

Number of Cases- This measure represents the number of reported cases and the number of death notifications from outside the County combined.

Percentage of cases with positive identification- The frequency in which the ME Office was able to make a positive identification on the reported cases.

## Legal/Contractual Obligation

Medical Examiner: ORS 146.085 Deputy medical examiners, 146.088 When medical examiner is officer or employee of public body, 146.090 Deaths requiring investigation, 146.095 Responsibility for investigation. (1) The district medical examiner and the district attorney for the county where death occurs, as provided by ORS 146.100 (2), shall be responsible for the investigation of all deaths requiring investigation.

## Revenue/Expense Detail

|                           | Proposed General Fund | Proposed Other Funds | Proposed General Fund | Proposed Other Funds |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Program Expenses</b>   | 2008                  | 2008                 | 2009                  | 2009                 |
| Personnel                 | \$775,790             | \$0                  | \$784,541             | \$0                  |
| Contracts                 | \$70,500              | \$0                  | \$70,500              | \$0                  |
| Materials & Supplies      | \$14,978              | \$0                  | \$14,074              | \$0                  |
| Internal Services         | \$41,196              | \$0                  | \$28,177              | \$0                  |
| Subtotal: Direct Exps:    | <b>\$902,464</b>      | <b>\$0</b>           | <b>\$897,292</b>      | <b>\$0</b>           |
| Administration            | \$52,656              | \$0                  | \$14,130              | \$0                  |
| Program Support           | \$174,349             | \$0                  | \$20,931              | \$0                  |
| Subtotal: Other Exps:     | <b>\$227,005</b>      | <b>\$0</b>           | <b>\$35,061</b>       | <b>\$0</b>           |
| Total GF/non-GF:          | <b>\$1,129,469</b>    | <b>\$0</b>           | <b>\$932,353</b>      | <b>\$0</b>           |
| Program Total:            | <b>\$1,129,469</b>    |                      | <b>\$932,353</b>      |                      |
| Program FTE               | 9.50                  | 0.00                 | 9.00                  | 0.00                 |
| <b>Program Revenues</b>   |                       |                      |                       |                      |
| Fees, Permits & Charges   | \$3,500               | \$0                  | \$3,500               | \$0                  |
| Program Revenue for Admin | \$17,871              | \$0                  | \$0                   | \$0                  |
| <b>Total Revenue:</b>     | <b>\$21,371</b>       | <b>\$0</b>           | <b>\$3,500</b>        | <b>\$0</b>           |

## Explanation of Revenues

The ME office should generate \$3,500 in general fund revenue through fees.

## Significant Program Changes

### Last year this program was:

Materials and Services and Professional Services costs were calculated by reviewing the previous 12 month history of costs and then in most cases adding the 3.0% inflationary factor.