

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

Lead Agency: Health Department
Program Contact: TILLMAN Tricia

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Multnomah County's Health Equity Initiative (HEI) engages community members and policy makers in understanding the root causes of health disparities experienced by people of color, immigrants, and refugees, highlighting current efforts, and advancing policy and practice solutions. Multnomah County integrates community input, findings from research, and local data to advance immediate and long-term solutions to address the root causes of disparities.

Program Description

In Multnomah County, people of color, immigrants, and refugees experience lower life expectancy, higher rates of disease, higher rates of poverty, lower education and economic attainment, and overrepresentation in the criminal justice and mental health systems. This program advocates addressing disparities with an explicit focus on justice and equity. To eliminate ethnic and racial health disparities by addressing root inequities, HEI analyzes, educates, and advocates for equitable social policies. This program offer will continue HEI's work on three fronts: organizational development, public policy, and community empowerment. To advance organizational development, the Countywide Health Equity Team will: a) analyze the results of a baseline Equity Inventory to identify strengths and opportunities for departments to increase their strategic focus on equity, and b) develop an Equity Review Tool and Equity and Social Justice Agenda (plus training) for commissioners and department leaders to use to promote equity in policy making and program development. To advance public policy, HEI will use policy options generated by HEI and other community policy initiatives to convene local elected officials, community based organizations, and community members to identify and promote an equity policy agenda. To advance community empowerment, the HEI will invest in training for county staff and community members to create common understanding on health equity and disparities, and to provide information on how best to connect with current efforts and conduct policy advocacy. To continue to engage a diverse cross-section of the community, HEI will continue to use the documentary Unnatural Causes to explore the social determinants of health and mobilize community participation in advocacy. Evaluation activities in all three areas will assure accountability.

Program Justification

The Health Equity Initiative is a nationally recognized model for promoting equity using a public health framework. In its first two years, the County has engaged the community in dialogue essential to identifying three areas for change: organizational development, public policy, and community empowerment. This offer will continue to address health disparities by directly engaging communities, building upon knowledge gained from successful disparities initiatives and public dialogues launched by HEI. This engagement will strengthen trust and communication between the community and government, build on existing and potential partnerships, and at the same time, strengthen and inform Multnomah County's direct service delivery system.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY07-08)	Current Year Purchased (FY08-09)	Current Year Estimate (FY08-09)	Next Year Offer (FY09-10)
Output	Community members and organizations involved in Initiative.	638	200	313	200
Outcome	Documented uses of Equity Review Tool by internal/external partners	0	0	0	20
Output	Internal and external partners trained to use Equity Review Tool	0	0	0	65
Output		0	0	0	0

Performance Measure - Description

 **Measure Changed**

1) Community engagement is a valid initial measure of health promotion. These are key to maintaining cultural factors that protect against health risks. In year 3, the Initiative will move beyond community dialogues to community empowerment through community education and policy advocacy training. 2) Equity tool adapted from Seattle/King County tool. In year 3 will be on strengthening our equity policy agenda, organizational development changes, and building on existing and potential partnerships within and external to the County. We will be working more in depth with fewer people.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2009	2009	2010	2010
Personnel	\$332,348	\$0	\$268,920	\$1,166
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$3,500	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$16,147	\$0	\$19,277	\$906
Internal Services	\$27,331	\$0	\$30,557	\$193
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$375,826	\$0	\$322,254	\$2,265
Administration	\$5,035	\$0	\$5,415	\$0
Program Support	\$21,776	\$0	\$21,905	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$26,811	\$0	\$27,320	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$402,637	\$0	\$349,574	\$2,265
Program Total:	\$402,637		\$351,839	
Program FTE	3.20	0.00	2.80	0.00
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$0	\$0	\$137	\$0
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,265
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$137	\$2,265

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #40045A, Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities