

Lead Agency: County Management

Program Contact: Sally Brown

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs: 72036, 72037, 72039, 72040, 72041, 72042, 72044, 72045, 72046, 72047, 72048, 72049, 72050

Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

Special Programs, within the Division of Assessment Recording & Taxation (DART), is responsible for processing applications relating to property tax exemptions or special assessments. Exempt properties are monitored by the program for continued qualification. Additional tax roll responsibilities include creating new tax accounts, processing corrections and verifying correct assessed values.

Program Description

Special Programs ensures that exempt and specially assessed property is valued in accordance with the law, which maximizes property tax revenues to fund County programs. Property taxes account for approximately 65% of the County's General Fund revenues. Failure to monitor this process will result in loss of taxable assessed value. Focus is on compliance monitoring of existing exemptions, careful review of new applications, and resolving appeals. Accurate values maximize the level of tax assessment allowed under Measure 5 and Measure 50 tax limitation. Special Programs Group (SPG) maintains over 5,200 property tax exemptions for the War Veteran & Surviving Spouse program and the Active Duty Military program. In addition, there are over 9,500 accounts with exemption status for various types of organizations, including charitable, fraternal, and religious. SPG is responsible for specially assessed properties, which include farm, forest, historic, and other specially assessed programs mandated by law. Leasehold records are monitored to maintain accurate, taxable values on over 700 accounts where non-exempt tenants lease from exempt government agencies. Approximately five hundred field inspections are performed as part of the program's compliance activities. Staff calculates and redistributes Maximum Assessed Values in accordance with Measure 50 tax limitation requirements for thousands of new properties created each year. SPG contributes to the process to arrive at the total taxable assessed value upon which taxes are calculated and levied for the benefit of all Multnomah County taxing districts. This program ensures that exempt and specially assessed property is accurately assessed as required by the Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS). Maintaining accurate market values on all property relates to the bonding capacity and general obligation bond tax rates for taxing districts in the County.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY09-10)	Current Year Purchased (FY10-11)	Current Year Estimate (FY10-11)	Next Year Offer (FY11-12)
Output	Accounts Reviewed and Processed for Current Tax Roll	8,507	11,500	8,600	8,600
Outcome	Taxable Market Value Re-established to the Roll	575,507,518	391,000,000	450,000,000	450,000,000
Input	Total Exempt Accounts Monitored	33,936	34,250	34,000	34,000
Output	Total Number of Accounts Processed for Prior Tax Roll	4,348	4,600	4,500	4,500

Performance Measure - Description

Output No. 1 decline attributable to a decrease in condominium plat recordings.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapters 92, 205, 294, 305, 306, 307, 308, 308A, 309, 310 and 321 and related Oregon Administrative Rules regulate virtually all aspects of the assessment and property tax calculation process. ORS 306.115 assigns statewide general supervision of the property tax system to the Oregon Dept. of Revenue (DOR). Through the "County Assessment Function Funding Account" (CAFFA) Grant process described in ORS 294.175, the DOR determines the acceptable level of assessment and taxation staffing. The DOR has determined that DART is already at the minimally acceptable staffing level to perform their functions. Any reduction to this program may jeopardize this grant revenue.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2011	2011	2012	2012
Personnel	\$728,477	\$0	\$674,760	\$0
Contracts	\$2,023	\$0	\$2,020	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$9,546	\$0	\$10,434	\$0
Internal Services	\$96,306	\$0	\$89,740	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$836,352	\$0	\$776,954	\$0
Program Total:	\$836,352		\$776,954	
Program FTE	7.95	0.00	7.30	0.00
Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$202,300	\$0	\$190,440	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$202,300	\$0	\$190,440	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Participation in the Oregon Department of Revenue County Assessment Function Funding Account (CAFFA) Grant, which supports Assessment & Taxation Programs, provides reimbursement of approximately 25% of program expenditures. Total annual Multnomah County share of CAFFA is estimated at \$3.6 Million, with \$190,440 to DART Special Programs. Remaining program support is from General Fund revenues.

Significant Program Changes

✔ Significantly Changed

Last year this program was: #72043, DCM - DART Property Assessment - Special Programs

Due to a division reorganization, reallocated management positions to other programs as follows: .20 FTE Program Mgr 1 and .20 FTE Sr. Valuation Manager reallocated to Program #72041 DCM-DART GIS & Parcel Management; .20 FTE Program Mgr 1 and .05 FTE Sr.Valuation Manager reallocated to Program #72051 DCM-DART Tax Title. Net reduction of .65 FTE overall for this program.