

Lead Agency: County Management

Program Contact: Leslie CECH

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs: 72023, 72024, 72028, 72029, 72030, 72033, 72035, 72037

Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

The Residential Property Appraisal Program, within the Division of Assessment, Recording and Taxation (DART), is responsible for valuing and appraising all residential-use Real Property. Residential Property represents 62% of the total taxable assessed value upon which taxes are calculated and levied for the benefit of all Multnomah County taxing districts. Also included in this program is Data Operations. This unit contributes to the support of the applications used by the linked programs for DART. Responsibilities include computer entry of data for property, tax and recorded documents and supporting application users. Additionally, Data Operations performs necessary interdepartmental communication and other support as requested.

Program Description

This program is responsible for maintaining Real Market Value and Maximum Assessed Value on 209,200 single family and two-four family properties; 35,300 condominiums; 4,900 manufactured homes; 1,800 floating properties; 2,800 farm/forest deferral properties; and 1,300 business accounts. Staff physically inspects and appraises 6,000 to 7,000 properties annually due to permits issued for new construction, remodeling or renovation. They also appraise 2,000 to 3,000 properties annually discovered through the sales confirmation process as having been significantly improved without apparent issuance of building or trade permits.

Under Measure 50, such appraisals add new value for taxing districts beyond the statutorily required 3% increase in the Maximum Assessed Value. Appraisals are also performed to defend values under appeal; and to verify that sales of property are valid market-based transactions that can be used to adjust automated valuation models, to appraise other property, and to generate the annual Ratio Report that measures the effectiveness of the program. This program primarily contributes to the fair and accurate appraisal of residential property as required by the Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS).

Maintaining accurate Real Market Values on all property directly affects the maximum bonding capacity and general obligation bond tax rates for all applicable taxing districts in the County. The program ensures that all residential property is valued in accordance with the law, which maximizes property tax revenues to fund programs for the County and other jurisdictions. Property taxes account for approximately 65% of the County's General Fund revenues.

Various computer and online tools are used to maximize appraisal effort. Focus is on discovery of new taxable property. Accurate values maximize the level of tax assessment allowed under Measure 5 and Measure 50 tax limitation measures.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY10-11)	Current Year Purchased (FY11-12)	Current Year Estimate (FY11-12)	Next Year Offer (FY12-13)
Output	Accounts Appraised	14,704	18,000	18,000	15,000
Outcome	New Taxable Exception Value in Millions of Dollars	337	500	400	400
Efficiency	Accounts Appraised per Appraiser	613	750	750	700
Outcome	% Neighborhoods with COD Compliance	97.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%

Performance Measure - Description

Oregon law requires property appraisals to be at 100% of Market Value as of January 1 of each year within standards established by the Oregon Department of Revenue (DOR). One of the primary standards is a statistical measure called the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD). Failure to meet these standards can result in loss of CAFFA grant revenue and program control. The DOR annually reviews compliance through three required reports: The Assessor's Certified Ratio Study, the Assessor's Appraisal Plan and the CAFFA Grant application. The DOR's most recent review as of 2011 determined that this program complies with standards.

Estimates made regarding new taxable value from Measure 50 exceptions are speculative due to the difficulty in predicting market forces. With the real estate market still in flux, we are focused on physical reappraisal, targeted resource allocation and improved methodology to maximize assessments.

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 Department 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 staffing. The DOR has determined that DART staffing is at the minimally acceptable 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	2012	2012	2013	2013
Personnel	\$2,814,471	\$0	\$2,908,965	\$0
Contracts	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,500	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$130,172	\$0	\$131,244	\$0
Internal Services	\$389,196	\$0	\$416,819	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$3,343,839	\$0	\$3,467,528	\$0
Program Total:	\$3,343,839		\$3,467,528	
Program FTE	26.25	0.00	29.25	0.00
Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$804,028	\$0	\$820,108	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$804,028	\$0	\$820,108	\$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 \$3,518,268, with \$820,108 allocated to Residential Property Appraisal Program. Remaining program support is from General Fund revenues.

Significant Program Changes

✔ Significantly Changed

Last year this program was: #72047, DART Residential Property Appraisal

High-rise condominiums formerly reported in 72046 – CDM-DART Commercial Property Appraisal are now reported in this program. Also, small apartments (5-20 units) formerly reported in this program are now reported in 72046 – DCM-DART Commercial Property.

A division reorganization resulted in the transfer of 3.00 FTE from former Data Operations Program (FY 2012 Program #72049) to Residenteial Appraisal Program #72034, and a Program Supervisor reclassification to Property Appraiser 2. Data Operations not budgeted as a separate support program for FY 2013.