



Continuum of Care Board Meeting

April 17, 2025



Time	Agenda Item	Facilitator
10 min	Welcome & Settle In - Land & Labor Acknowledgement	Alyssa/Co-Chairs
5-10 min	County Budget Update	Alyssa
20 min	Update on HUD/New Administration Impacts	Alyssa
30 min	CoC Board Planning Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CoC Board Focus Areas ● Example - Advocacy 	Co-Chairs
5 min	Break	
40 min	Focus Areas Brainstorm and Discussion	Co-Chairs

Land & Labor Acknowledgement

Credit to:
Dr. Aileen Duldulao &
Heather Heater,
Multnomah County

Multnomah county rests on the stolen lands of the Multnomah, Kathlamet, and Clackamas Bands of Chinook Indian Nation; Tualatin Kalapuya; Molalla; and many others along the Columbia River.

This country is built on stolen Indigenous land and built by stolen African people. This land was not stolen and people were not enslaved by ambiguous entities and actors. The land was stolen by, and African peoples were enslaved by White settlers who had government support.

We also want to honor the members of over 400 tribal communities who live in Multnomah County. Many of these People and their cultures still survive and resist despite the intentional and ongoing attempts to destroy them.

Community Agreements (1/3)

- Account for power dynamics in the room and in the work. Make every effort to share power by actively listening to input from all members, particularly those who may be marginalized or underrepresented, and committing to following up on input provided or seeking further input from communities not in this space.
- Approach discussions with empathy and respect, allowing space for vulnerability.
- Assume best intentions while honoring impact. Acknowledge that intent does not override impact.
- Be accountable and transparent. Commit to acknowledging and working through harm caused.

Community Agreements (2/3)

- Be mindful of privilege, historical and current structures of oppression, specifically anti-blackness and Indigenous erasure. Approach the work with a shared goal to lead with a lens of equity, inclusion, diversity, and anti-racism.
- Strive for resolution, while also expecting and accepting non-closure.
- Honor the diversity in the room. Stay open to different perspectives and alternative approaches.
- Language matters. Use intentional, direct, compassionate language. Speak your truth in a way that respects all of our community agreements. Offer content warnings if appropriate.

Community Agreements (3/3)

- Make space, take space. Make space for those who are not speaking up as often, take space if you usually don't speak up.
- Maintain confidentiality. Share lessons learned while keeping names and identifiers confidential.
- Meet folks where they are. Do not assume knowledge on behalf of others. Be thorough, clear, patient, and transparent in our dialogue.
- Use people-first language and refrain from stigmatizing language.
- Listen to understand, don't listen to rebut.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY BUDGETING TIMELINE



DEC. 6
PREPARE

General Fund Forecast;
Budget Manual; Chair's
Policy Guidance;
Internal Service Rates

ALL DEPARTMENTS



FEB. 14
REQUEST

Departments
prioritize reductions,
reallocations, and
new requests.

ALL DEPARTMENTS



APRIL 24
PROPOSE

Balanced budget
released for Board to
begin public
deliberation.

COUNTY CHAIR



MAY 8
APPROVE

Board review:
first opportunity for
amendments; 10% rule
applies after approval.

COMMISSIONERS



JUNE 12
ADOPT

Department and Board
amendments; budget
notes; resolutions;
TSCC hearing.

COMMISSIONERS

10 weeks —

10 weeks —

2 weeks —

5 weeks —

- Preliminary Work Sessions

- Department Work Sessions
- Public Hearings

County Budget Process

Moving into the next phase of the budget process for FY 26 at the County.

April 24th
Release of FY 2026 Chair's Executive Budget

May 14th
Public Budget Hearing #1

May 21st
Public Budget Hearing #2

May 28th
Public Budget Hearing #3

FY 2026 Requested Budgets

Members of the public can view the Budget Office Dashboard for more information about requested budgets.

[FY 26 Budget Dashboard](#)

The dashboard provides breakdowns by departments, program offers, and other specialized areas like supportive housing.

Match Policy Change

Continued CoC Match funding was proposed as part of the JOHS proposed County budget.

After reviewing spending data, gathering provider feedback, and completing a RELT we have decided to make the following changes:

- The provider will have the ability to spend these funds on any eligible SHS or CGF expense, whichever is applicable, in order to meet the needs of the program and participants. If these designated match funds are not spent on HUD CoC eligible expenses, the provider is independently responsible for locating other funding sources, either cash or in-kind, to meet the HUD regulatory match requirement.
- Requirement for recipients of match funds to take an annual training requirement on eligible costs and match principles

Note: these changes will not apply to CoC projects where Multnomah County is the grantee and passes funding to subgrantees

New Administration Impacts on CoC Programming



New Grant Agreement Updates

Grant agreements are going out, but slowly. HUD is starting by grant end date, so projects whose grants end on or before April 1st will be receiving those grants first.

All other grant agreements will hopefully be coming out this month, according to the Field Office.

New Language in Grant Agreements:

- There is new language provided in the Grant Agreements to align the grants with certain Executive Orders
- Nothing in the new language requires any programmatic changes to our CoC projects
- The majority of the language in the GA is very specific to the use of "these grant funds" except for one provision that requires all recipients certify that they do not operate any programming that "violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"

Content Warning:

The next slides contain language used by the new administration that is racially discriminatory, transphobic, and queerphobic. We are including it in this presentation to ensure that the CoC Board has all of the necessary context and information to make decisions in the future.

This conversation is challenging and we encourage you to practice self-preservation and resiliency strategies during this discussion.

New Grant Agreement Language

1. Recipient cannot use grant funds to promote "gender ideology."
2. Recipient must comply with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws including relief from retaliatory actions.
3. Recipient cannot operate any programs that violate anti-discrimination laws including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
4. Recipient cannot use grant funds to fund or promote elective abortions.
5. HUD will not enforce provisions of the Grant Agreement to the extent that they require the project to use a housing first program model.
6. Any person who becomes aware of the existence or apparent existence of fraud, waste or abuse of any HUD award must report such incidents to both the HUD official responsible for the award and to HUD's Office of Inspector General (OIG).

New Grant Agreement Language

7. "The recipient must administer its grant in accordance with all applicable immigration restrictions and requirements, including the eligibility and verification requirements that apply under Title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, as amended (8 U.S.C. 1601-1646) (PRWORA) and any applicable requirements that HUD, the Attorney General, or the U.S. The Center for Immigration Services may establish from time to time to comply with PRWORA, Executive Order 14218, or other Executive Orders or immigration laws.

Subject to the exceptions provided by PRWORA, the recipient must use SAVE, or an equivalent verification system approved by the Federal government, to prevent any Federal public benefit from being provided to an ineligible alien who entered the United States illegally or is otherwise unlawfully present in the United States."

New Grant Agreement Language

Exceptions provided by PRWORA:

- Based on exceptions, CoC TH and RRH programs cannot turn people away based on Immigration Status. The primary program type that is covered by PRWORA are PSH programs.
- PRWORA further exempts all "nonprofit charitable organizations" from having to verify immigration status of program participants. If nonprofits choose to adopt a policy of verifying immigration status, then they must verify status for everyone in a non-discriminatory manner according to the guidelines of the HUD funded program they are under. Therefore, if a PSH provider is a non-profit entity, they are not required to verify citizenship.

HUD Staffing

Some HUD probationary staff that were laid off on February 14th have been reinstated at HUD due to Federal Court Order

Government Office of Accountability is conducting an investigation into the firing of Fair Housing enforcement staff

SPECULATION ALERT

Portland HUD Field Office will most likely remain open, but staff will be reduced

CoC Board Planning Next Steps

CoC Board Focus Areas

Example - Advocacy

CoC Board Focus Areas

At the March CoC Board Meeting, the Board passed an updated CoC Charter. This represents the “what” of the CoC Board work.

The next step is to establish the “how” as well as determine what the CoC Board would like to focus energy on over the course of the next year.

To balance Board capacity with a desire for action, the co-chairs are recommending the Board select 2 Focus Areas to devote time, planning, and effort.

Example: Advocacy

Example focus area - Advocacy for CoC funding, against HUD staffing cuts, for supporting marginalized communities, etc.

CoC Board Responsibility #4

"Promoting visibility of the COC in the community and educating elected officials, agency heads, and community leaders regarding policies and actions to promote CoC objectives"

Lobbying vs. Advocacy

1

Lobbying is a type of advocacy that involves urging lawmakers to vote yes or no on specific legislation that's being considered.

2

Advocacy means urging a lawmaker, policymaker, or other government official to support a specific cause, often in a specific way (such as by increasing funding). Everyone has a right to engage in advocacy. For people working in the homeless services field, advocacy efforts typically focus on education about a specific issue on behalf of the people their organization serves (those experiencing homelessness).

Examples of Lobbying vs. Advocacy

Advocacy

- Telling a member of Congress how a policy affects constituents
- Using social media to get the word out about a cause/issue
- Meeting with a government official to explain how a particular problem/issue is affecting a particular group or organization, the environment, etc.

Lobbying

- Asking your member of Congress to vote for or against, amend or introduce, particular legislation
- Emailing members of your group asking them to contact their member of Congress in support of or opposition to legislation
- Generating an online petition asking members of your organization (direct lobbying) or members of the public (grassroots lobbying) to contact their legislator(s) to support or oppose particular legislation

Potential Advocacy Avenues

- Calling lawmakers
 - In blue states it is most effective when calling lawmakers not just to ask them to support a cause but to ask them to prioritize a cause
 - You can also ask what they may need in order to prioritize the cause
 - E.g. Providing stories to lawmakers about impact of funding on individual lives of staff and people with lived experience
 - E.g. Providing data about who is served with federal funding and the impact that a loss or reduction of funding could have on the community
- Providing public testimony on importance of specific program or funding source
- Submitting written testimony on importance of specific program or funding source
- Distribute materials to legislator's offices that describe the success of a federally funded program

Potential Advocacy Avenues

National Alliance to End Homelessness: Advocacy Survey

"Advocacy has been the major theme of 2025 so far and we don't see this changing anytime soon. With that in mind, our team has assembled a survey to help us better understand how you want to be engaged as an advocate, and how we can make these opportunities as convenient as possible.

Whether you consider yourself currently to be an advocate or not, please take a moment to [complete the survey](#). You are our most important and impactful advocates, so please help us engage you with the opportunities that best suit you."

Remember: CoC Public Communications Guide

- [Public Communications Guide](#)
- This document describes:
 - Scope of Public Statements
 - Process for Development of Public Statements
 - Participation by Ex-Officio Board Members
 - Form of Public Statements
 - Individual Statements

Focus Areas Brainstorm and Discussion





Homeless Services Department

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