

Welcome

Please make yourself comfortable.
We will get started in a few minutes.



Homeless Services
Department

**SHS Advisory Committee
Meeting**

February 12, 2026

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM



**Homeless Services
Department**

Introductions

- Name
- Pronouns (if comfortable sharing)
- Organization/community you represent

Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Action
3:00	Welcome Introductions	Mack Vohs	Inform
3:15	HSD Updates <i>Recommendations / Budget / Annual Work Plan</i>	Breanna Flores	Inform
3:30	Community Agreements <i>Refresher and Discussion</i>	Mack Vohs	Inform, Discuss
3:50	Land and Labor Acknowledgement <i>How can we make the acknowledgement more integrated in and relevant to our work?</i>	Mack Vohs	Discuss
If time allows	2025 Recommendations Process <i>How does the committee want to approach making recommendations in 2026?</i>	Mack Vohs	Discuss
4:30	Session closes	Close	

Goals for Today

Practical Goal (what we aim to do)

Discuss how we engage with two core meeting components (the Community Agreements and the Land & Labor Acknowledgement) to make them meaningful and relevant to this group.

Experiential Goal (what we aim to experience)

- Connection
- Feeling heard
- Showing up in ways that are comfortable for you
- Feeling excited about our direction

HSD Updates



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Recommendations Update



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Access Recommendations Update

- The SHS team submitted the committee's Access recommendations to Homeless Services Department leadership on Wednesday, **January 21**.
- We suggested that the recommendations could be a helpful tool for this year's budget planning.
- Leadership has six weeks to provide a response either in writing or via an in-person presentation to the committee.
- They will let us know by **February 19** how they will be sharing their response.

Budget Update



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Budget Timeline

November

Central Budget Office releases the General Fund forecast

December/January

Department budget planning

February 6

Departments submit budgets to Chair for consideration

March/April

Chair develops and releases her proposed budget

April/May

Board deliberation, work sessions, community engagement

May/June

Board amends and adopts the budget by early June. Fiscal year begins July 1, 2026.

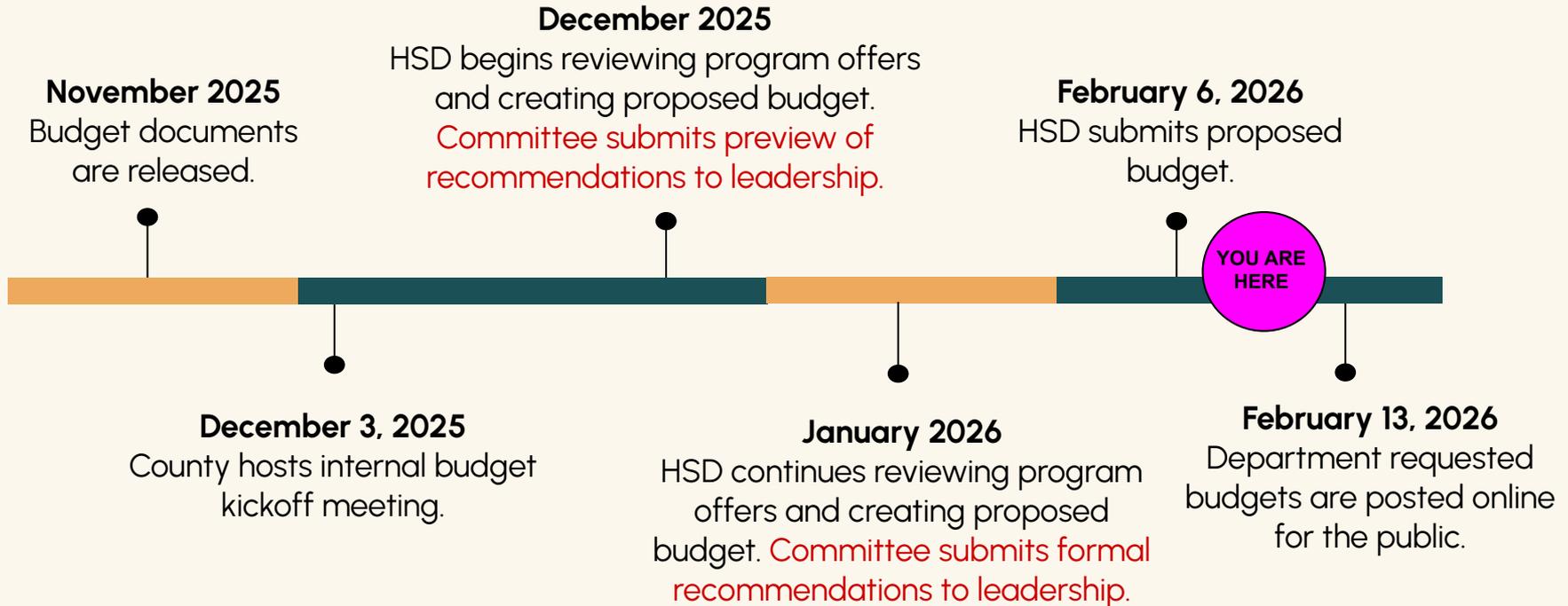
Framing the Conversation: Budget Horizon

Homeless Services Department Budget Policy Goals (FY27)

1. Keep People Housed
2. Prioritize Housing Placements
3. Maximize Shelter Effectiveness

Continued focus on Priority Populations and
Reducing Disparities

Budget Process & Recommendations Timeline



FY 2027 SHS Annual Work Plan



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Framing the Conversation: FY 2027 SHS Annual Work Plan

What are we talking about?

Every year, the three counties that receive SHS funding are required to submit SHS goals to Metro. These goals help us carry out the priorities in our SHS Local Implementation Plan. Our draft of FY27 goals is due April 1.

Why is it important?

The committee's recommendations can influence our SHS Annual Work Plan goals. The SHS team looks for opportunities to incorporate the committee's recs during the drafting process.

Annual Work Plan – Goal Categories

The annual work plan is split into two distinct categories

- Quantitative Goals (Category 1)
- Qualitative Goals (Categories 2-5)

Quantitative Goals: Numeric outcomes (e.g., # of people placed in PSH) projected based on funding level, service type, etc.

Qualitative Goals: Can represent a project or process related to racial equity, capacity building, or other focus areas of Multnomah County's LIP

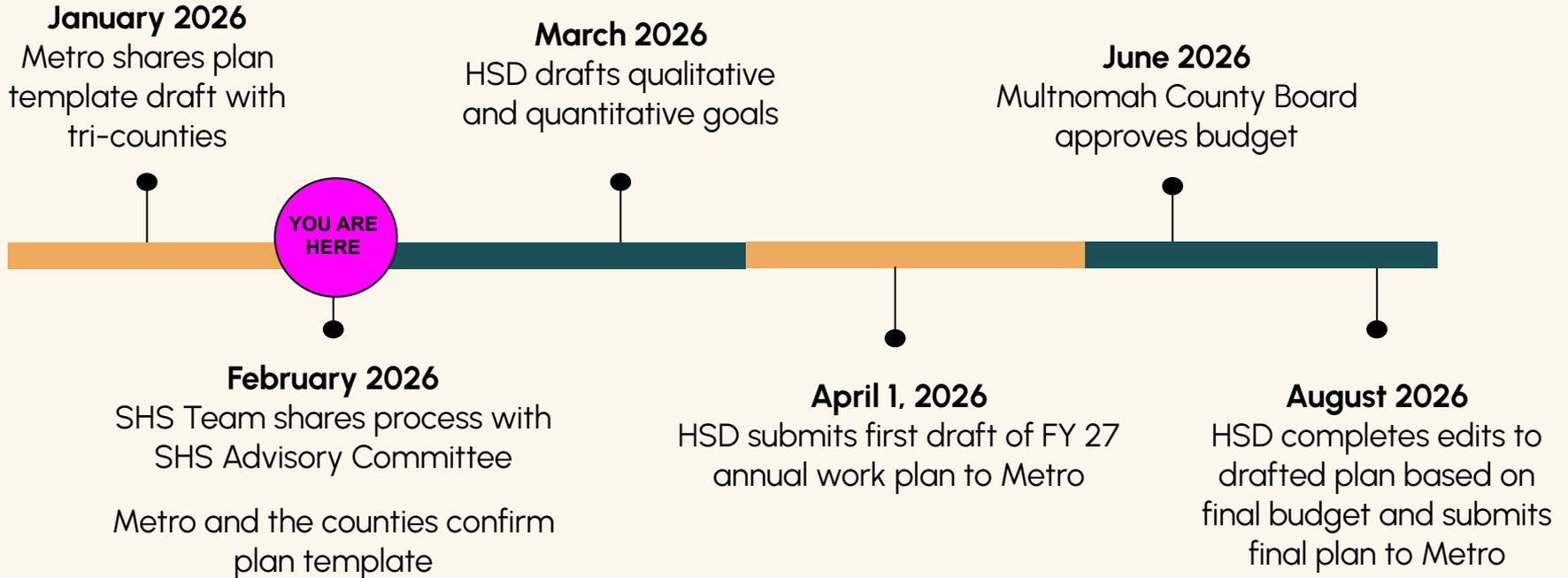
Annual Work Plan – Qualitative Goals

While not guaranteed, the qualitative goal section provides an opportunity to incorporate approved SHS Advisory Committee recommendations.

Qualitative Approach:

- Review FY 27 submitted SHS budget
- Review SHS advisory committee recommendations
- Identify opportunities to include recommendations where resources are available and viable

FY 27 SHS Annual Work Plan Timeline



Community Agreements



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Framing the Conversation: Community Agreements

What are we talking about?

It's been a while since we've reviewed our community agreements. Our agreements are a list of statements that guide how we interact with each other and the culture we wish to establish.

Why is it important?

Having strong agreements will help us all participate and feel respected. Our agreements should reflect our values and needs.

Community Agreements

When the SHS committee was founded, members identified the following community agreements:

- Take care of yourself.
- Make the best effort to be engaged and ready to support one another.
- Be aware of your own space and positionality.
- Practice cultural humility by respecting other perspectives, experiences and cultures.
- Share the air and give everyone a chance to speak.
- Be authentic and speak your truth.
- Respect and listen to each other, honor each other's perspectives and story.
- Respect confidentiality and don't share other's stories without their permission.
- Give feedback and be open to feedback.
- Differentiate between safety and comfort.
- Be curious and ask questions. Be patient.
- Differentiate between opinion and informed knowledge.
- Interrupt oppression.
- Expect and accept discomfort and ambiguity.
- Be open to trying something different.
- Be open to hearing something different.
- Share gratitude for feedback.
- Be aware of time.
- Correct with care—assume good intentions.
- Respect names and pronouns (help others when they may make mistakes).
- Stay focused/stay present.
- Understand we are all collectively learning and growing.

Community Agreements

Self-Awareness and Presence

- Take care of yourself
- Be aware of your own space and positionality
- Be authentic and speak your truth
- Stay focused/stay present
- Be aware of time

Respectful Communication & Engagement

- Make the best effort to be engaged and ready to support one another
- Share the air and give everyone a chance to speak
- Respect and listen to each other, honor each other's perspectives and story
- Respect confidentiality and don't share other's stories without their permission
- Differentiate between opinion and informed knowledge

Community Agreements

Inclusivity, Equity, and Cultural Humility

- Practice cultural humility. Respect the validity of other's perspectives, experiences and cultures
- Interrupt oppression
- Correct with care—assume good intentions
- Respect names and pronouns (help others when they may make mistakes)

Learning, Feedback, and Embracing Growth

- Give feedback and be open to feedback
- Differentiate between safety and comfort
- Be curious and ask questions. Be patient.
- Expect and accept discomfort and ambiguity
- Be open to trying something different
- Be open to hearing something different
- Share gratitude for feedback
- Understand we are all collectively learning and growing

Community Agreements: Discussion

In future meetings...

How would you like us to review these agreements and keep them front of mind and centered in our work?

How shall we hold each other accountable to upholding these agreements?

What would you like the facilitator to do to help us all uphold these agreements?

Land and Labor Acknowledgement



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Framing the Conversation: Land and Labor Acknowledgement

What are we talking about?

We begin meetings with a L&L acknowledgement to recognize the historical and ongoing effects of oppression that were caused or endorsed by the government. We will be reviewing this process and statement.

Why is it important?

The statement is intended to challenge erasure and encourage reflection on how disparities in homelessness have systemic and intentional origins. We can shape *how* we utilize the statement to reflect our needs and values.

Before we begin this discussion...

Talking about the Land and Labor Acknowledgement means talking about deep, structural, and persistent racism.

This is a heavy topic already, and is further compounded by current events.

Please step into this conversation in whatever ways feel genuine and safe to you. If you need to go off camera, step away for a moment, etc., please feel free to do so.

Why we use Land & Labor Acknowledgements in HSD

Racism is a primary driver of homelessness, and addressing racial disparities is core to the SHS measure. Here is a **brief** overview of historical policies and practices driving these disparities:

- White settler colonialism and disease
- Occupation of Native land
- Forced cultural assimilation
- Black Exclusion Laws preventing Black people from residing in Oregon
- Segregation caused by racist zoning covenants, redlining and federal loan discrimination
- The Vanport Flood of '48 displacing thousands of Black families from a development managed by the Housing Authority of Portland
- Construction projects that went through predominantly Black Albina neighborhood, causing the destruction of Black homes and businesses

Why we use Land & Labor Acknowledgements in HSD

This historical legacy has shaped the current configuration of housing and homelessness within our community.

Systemic racism is embedded within all social systems - housing, criminal justice, education, healthcare, and social services.

Interpersonal racism — both implicit and explicit — is a common experience of people of color as they navigate services and community.

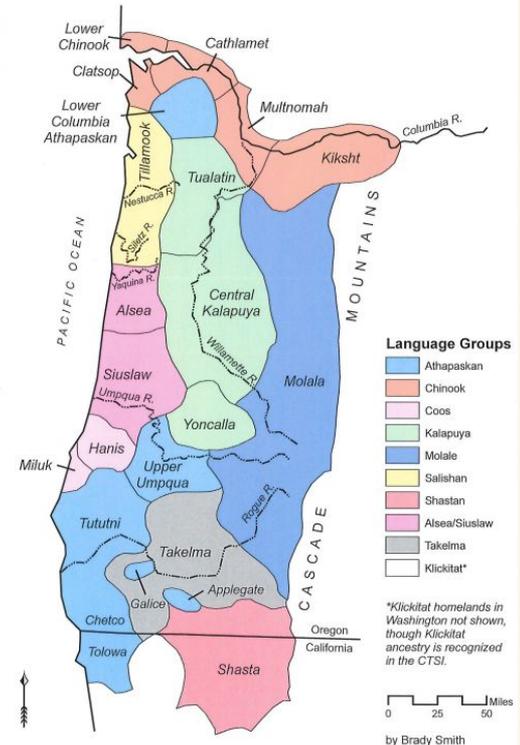
All of these factors combined generate an ongoing channel into homelessness that disproportionately impacts communities of color, and makes it significantly more challenging for people of color to escape homelessness.

Why we use Land & Labor Acknowledgements in HSD

We can use the Land & Labor Acknowledgement as another tool to dismantle colonialism, informing:

- How we hold meetings,
- How we engage in relationship in spaces (including who is and isn't "in the room"),
- How we all have active roles in dismantling systems that benefit whiteness at the expense of Black and brown communities

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF SILETZ INDIANS
ANCESTRAL TRIBES AND HOMELANDS



Land & Labor - Missteps

Performative

- Becomes a box-checking exercise, not meaningful change
- Allows institutions to appear helpful without actualizing policy/system change
- May leave participants feeling helpless, believing the past cannot be changed

Centering Wrong Voices

- Focuses on White guilt over Indigenous sovereignty or Black resilience

Emotional Burden on Black and brown people

- Sets expectation that Black and brown people must educate non-marginalized groups

Overshadowing Present Issues

- Obscures ongoing struggles by making discrimination and oppression seem like past issues

Land & Labor - Mitigations

Share current land map

- <https://native-land.ca/>

Connect the Acknowledgement to the meeting

- Share why the L&L is important and how it relates to the present meeting agenda/purpose

Pair with Action

- Use acknowledgement as a call-to-action
- Call in HSD's responsibility to do real work to right the wrongs it helped create & perpetuate
- Invite participants to actively desegregate their lives by engaging intentionally with marginalized communities other than their own

Don't apply a one-size fits all approach

Land & Labor Acknowledgement

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. Let us please take a moment of silence to acknowledge the history of how we are here in this place and to honor the People.

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

Land & Labor Acknowledgement

Discussion

The Statement (what it says)

- How do you feel about the specific statement we read?
- Would you change anything about this statement?

The Practice (how we use it)

- How do you feel about our current process of reading this statement at the beginning of our meetings?
- Do you find this format and/or process beneficial?
- Would you change anything about the way we do this?

Resources

[The Racist History of Portland, the Whitest City in America](#)

Article from The Atlantic about Portland's history of racist housing policy

[Native Governance Center Guide to Land Acknowledgements](#)

A guide to creating a more in-depth land acknowledgement.

- <https://nativegov.org/news/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>

[Native Land Digital Map](#)

An app to help map Indigenous territories, treaties, and languages.

- <https://native-land.ca/>

[Ecotrust Alternatives to Land Acknowledgements](#)

Actions to take in allyship with Native communities as an alternative to land acknowledgements.

- <https://ecotrust.org/call-to-action-for-indigenous-communities/>

2026 Recommendations Process



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Framing the Conversation: 2026 Recommendations Process

What are we talking about?

In January the committee finalized your 2025 access recommendations. We would like your feedback on how you felt the process went.

Why is it important?

We can use this feedback to inform and improve how the committee approaches making recommendations this year.

2026 Recommendations Process

How do you feel about the process we took in 2025 to brainstorm, develop, workshop and finalize recommendations?

Would you want to do anything differently in 2026?

Close

