

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-036

Resolution Prioritizing Multnomah County's Commitment to Early, Inclusive, and Equitable Community Outreach and Engagement.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. The history of Oregon and the origins of our state have eroded trust between communities and local government, as they have been defined by colonialism, white supremacy, and exclusion. These origins continue to shape our practices, policies and programs, and impact all communities striving for self-determination.
- B. Multnomah County's vision of *safety, trust and belonging*, as stated in the Workforce Equity Strategic Plan, requires leadership to fit programs and funding to the people, and not put the obligation on people to fit themselves to County programs and funding.
- C. Active community involvement is essential for the health of inclusive democracy and local government.
- D. Committing to equity is essential in all aspects of community engagement in order to remove barriers to access, create trust and adequately serve all in Multnomah County. This is especially important for underrepresented and underserved communities including but not limited to communities of color, people with disabilities, immigrants and refugees, LGBTQ, people experiencing houselessness, low-income households, renters, youth and seniors.
- E. Multnomah County believes that equitable and effective community engagement must:
 - a. Prioritize the engagement of communities that have been historically oppressed.
 - b. Prioritize early community involvement in the planning of budgets, projects and policy development.
 - c. Provide clear and consistent communications with all in Multnomah County to encourage community participation in decision making.
 - d. Seek out, foster and actively maintain relationships with community groups, neighborhoods and other community stakeholders.

- e. Engage with community members in spaces that are physically, geographically and virtually accessible to a given community.
- F. Involving the community in decision making can help surface assumptions and biases, and avoid unforeseen impacts of a policy, program or procedure.
- G. Adequate support and resources for community engagement increase the opportunity for policies and programs to: have strong community investment, positively impact social and health inequities and decrease barriers to access County services.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. To support the Office of Community Involvement and the Community Involvement Committee in the regular evaluation of the diverse ways the County engages with the public about programs and policies, in order to ensure that all Departments successfully embed community engagement in decision-making processes and ultimately reduce barriers to civic engagement.
2. To affirm the Chair's direction that Departments create timely and culturally relevant plans for community involvement that are aligned to the Multnomah County's principles of inclusion and equity, are implemented consistently and are responsive and accountable to community concern.

ADOPTED this 27th day of May, 2021.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Olivia Kilgore