



APPENDIX D

COMMUNITY POLICY PRIORITIES

I. Poverty

- Revise government policies that cause working poor to lose all of their welfare or disability benefits if they take a job to supplement their benefits; increase poverty thresholds to increase eligibility for services.
- Mandate paid sick days and paid vacations, and incentives for healthy behaviors. Provide incentives, such as TriMet passes monetary incentives or a reduction in work hours to people who practice healthy behaviors like walking or biking to work.
- Promote current efforts to establish a County staff that mirrors the communities it serves by hiring, retaining and promoting a diverse workforce, such as health care providers, librarians, and service contractors. Improve County's current efforts to train, mentor, and promote persons of color to management careers.
- Require corporations, such as those who benefited from the development of Northwest Portland's Pearl District, to give back to the community in some way.
- Partner with corporations to remove financial barriers to higher education in public service fields employed by Multnomah County, i.e., library science, public health, social work, criminal justice.
- Tax pornography to leverage dollars for women's health.

II. Access to Medical Care (primary care)

- Universal health care including mental health care and prevention. Support efforts to ensure access to healthcare for all Oregonians, such as the work of the Oregon Health Fund Board with particular attention paid to the recommendations of the Health Equities Committee.
- Require health insurance to cover costs of health promotion and prevention activities.
- Require health insurance to cover alternative health care.
- Require affordable or free access to mental health services. Enhance the mental health system.

APPENDIX D

COMMUNITY POLICY PRIORITIES

- Expand (childhood) early intervention programs. Increase screening of children for developmental delays and disabilities; provide early intervention for children to avoid more serious and expensive long-term health problems.
- Support the collaboration of provider systems (e.g., Kaiser, Legacy, Multnomah County) to establish an urgent care system to divert patients from more expensive emergency department care.
- Engage health systems and educational institutions to create minority scholarships for health career education for graduates of public schools.
- Require businesses with more than 20 employees to pay towards health care coverage.

III. Quality Public Education

- Reinstate courses in civics, nutrition, physical education, health education and personal finances. Schools and job training programs should teach basic life skills, such as buying a house, financial literacy, civic engagement and advocacy that would foster a sense of community.
- Improve nutrition and physical activities in day cares and schools. For example, help implement relevant recommendations in A Healthy Active Oregon: A Statewide Physical Activity and Nutrition Plan 2007-2012, such as expanding the Farm to School program and requiring daily physical education.
- Continuation and expansion of education programs to provide youth with resources, skills, and connections to succeed, such as SUN Community Schools and Connected by 25.

IV. Quality Affordable Housing

- Support programs that encourage minority ownership. Encourage home ownership through Community Land Trusts and low down payment, low interest loans for minority home ownership programs.
- Promote a “heat security” policy that would guarantee heat for low-income people by convening a forum of local energy producers, distributors and policy makers.
- Increase the number of homeless shelters for women and children.
- Add exercise rooms to new public housing.
- Assure the availability of healthy homes including setting standards for indoor air quality and promoting “breathe easy homes” constructed with special features to improve indoor air quality and reduce air pollutants. Direct emergency department savings to develop more “asthma free” public housing.

APPENDIX D

COMMUNITY POLICY PRIORITIES

V. Discrimination

- Convene community dialogues to understand racism.
- Provide and expand low-interest loans to minority-owned business
- Promote the adoption by other local governments of an equity review process to consider equity in policy decisions related to community development, education, employment, transportation, etc.
- Provide Undoing Institutional Racism course for Multnomah County Managers.

VI. Child Abuse and Neglect

- Advocate for full and adequate funding for early childhood programs such as Head Start. The CDC recommends comprehensive, center-based, early childhood development programs for low-income children based on strong evidence that such programs improve cognitive development.
- Examine the current distribution of County services, such as preventive services for children, checkups, etc., and consider expanding those services by geographic area of need.

VII. Access to Affordable, Healthy Food

- Ban the marketing/sale of junk foods in school
- Expand Multnomah County's connection with community food programs such as community gardens, gleaners and harvest share programs, and learning gardens through such community partners as Oregon Food Bank and Growing Gardens. Create an organized effort to help neighborhoods plant gardens. Promote school gardens and garden-based learning for children. Create a county-sponsored "Friends of Gardens" program to establish gardens within neighborhoods.
- Increase taxes on unhealthy products. Tax tobacco, alcohol, non-nutritional beverages, and junk food to fund policies and programs to decrease health inequities and

APPENDIX D

COMMUNITY POLICY PRIORITIES

- subsidize healthy foods in local markets.
- Promote connections among small, local farms and low-income neighborhoods by (1) convening a policy forum with local farmers, residents and policy makers to identify policy and remove barriers to connecting local farmers with low-income people and reduce the cost of doing business for small, local farms, and (2) establishing land use agreements for food co-ops and farmers markets in low-income neighborhoods. Expand farmers' markets to eastern areas of Portland and Multnomah County. Expand the use of food stamps and WIC vouchers at farmers' markets.

VIII. Employment and Job Security

- Require employers to provide "livable" wages.
- Mandate paid sick days and paid vacations, and incentives for healthy behaviors. Provide incentives, such as TriMet passes monetary incentives or a reduction in work hours to people who practice healthy behaviors like walking or biking to work.
- Protect workers from the consequences of company relocation. Require companies that relocate out of the area to finance retraining programs for workers in industries that are growing (e.g., health care, engineering, technology, media, etc.) or severance pay for layoffs.
- Promote current efforts to develop a streamlined process for promoting and contracting with minority, women, and emerging small businesses, which may include a streamlined certification process

IX. Chronic Diseases

- Provide training in coping skills to alleviate stress.

X. Public Transportation

- Promote alternative modes of transportation such as walking, biking, and public transportation. Develop more walking and biking trails. Establish bike boulevards separated from traffic. Establish more off-street or low-use street bike paths and sidewalks throughout County neighborhoods. Establish, in partnership with City of Portland, a community bike-lending program, with plentiful low-cost rentals.
- Partner with community enhancement CBOs like City Repair to change the underlying physical structure of neighborhoods to enhance community connections.
- Build small communities with access to shopping and services within walking distance. Expand car-free neighborhoods on a regular basis to enhance the opportunity for neighbors to connect with each other. Promote telecommuting, fewer work days, or longer work days.