



600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Council work session agenda

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

10:30 AM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber;
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID:
615079992) or 253-205-0468 (toll free),
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyNYvJE8k-olt>

Work session will begin at 10:30 a.m. Agenda item times are estimated and the order of items may be subject to change.

This meeting will be held electronically and in person at the Metro Regional Center Council Chamber. You can join the meeting on your computer or other device by using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615 079 992)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Work Session Topics:

2.1 Washington County Deflection Program [26-6438](#)

Presenter(s): Kevin Barton, Washington County District Attorney
Danielle Farr, Deflection Program Coordinator

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

2.2 One-Year Update on Metro Film & TV Access Resolution [26-6422](#)
No. 25-5475

Presenter(s): Andrew Scott (he/him), Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Jon Blasher (he/him), Parks and Nature Director
Representatives from the Oregon Media Production
Association

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1 - Resolution No. 25-5475 and Staff Report](#)

3. Chief Operating Officer Communication

4. Councilor Communication

5. Adjourn

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www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights၊

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Agenda #: 2.1

File #: 26-6438

Agenda Date: 2/17/2026

Washington County Deflection Program

Kevin Barton, Washington County District Attorney

Danielle Farr, Deflection Program Coordinator

WASHINGTON COUNTY DEFLECTION PROGRAM – PRESENTATION BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY KEVIN BARTON

Date: 2/2/2026
Department: Council Office
Meeting Date: 2/17/2026
Prepared by: Robin Ye,
robin.ye@oregonmetro.gov

Presenters: Kevin Barton, Washington County District Attorney; Danielle Farr, Deflection Senior Program Coordinator
Length: 60 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

The Washington County Deflection Program is a partnership between the District Attorney's Office and other public safety and community-based agencies. The deflection program provides behavioral health support for residents and intersects with the delivery of supportive housing services (SHS).

District Attorney Kevin Barton and staff will present an overview of the program.

ACTION REQUESTED

This presentation is informational.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

As Metro works to establish the SHS Regional Policy Oversight Committee (SHS RPOC) and move towards a regional continuum of care, it is useful to understand interaction points and different approaches the counties are taking to deploy their resources serving different populations. Deflection programs have been in place for a little more than a year and potential trends and evaluation of their efficacy can help inform continued SHS reforms.

BACKGROUND

In April 2024, Oregon Governor Tina Kotek signed HB 4002, which effectively repealed the core drug decriminalization components of Measure 110. The legislation re-criminalizes possession of hard drugs as a misdemeanor, while establishing mandatory "deflection" programs, delivered at the county level, that divert individuals into treatment services instead of jail, effective September 1, 2024. The law instructed each county to stand up their own deflection program to allow eligible people who are cited or arrested for Possession of a Controlled Substance as a misdemeanor (PCS-U/A) to avoid prosecution and possible fines and jail time. Each county implements and funds these programs differently.

State officials define deflection programs as "collaborations between law enforcement and behavioral health entities to create pathways to treatment outside the criminal justice system for people with substance use disorders."¹

In Washington County, deflection programs are completed in six months. A participant successfully completes the program when the Deflection Operations Team (DOT) determines they:

1. have engaged in substance use treatment. This is measured by treatment records, feedback from the treatment provider, drug test results and other factors.
2. have demonstrated they are likely to continue to engage in substance use treatment after completing the program.

If both requirements are not met within the six-month deflection period, participants are referred to the court process. Additional criminal charges and missed court dates may also result in referral to the court process.

The DOT is led by Department of Health and Human Services staff and includes staff from the District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, Community Corrections, and providers from the Behavioral Health Resource Network. The team jointly reviews cases, individual participants' progress, and overall program status.

ATTACHMENTS

None



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Agenda #: 2.2

File #: 26-6422

Agenda Date: 2/17/2026

One-Year Update on Metro Film & TV Access Resolution No. 25-5475

Andrew Scott (he/him), Deputy Chief Operating Officer

Jon Blasher (he/him), Parks and Nature Director

Representatives from the Oregon Media Production Association

ONE-YEAR UPDATE ON METRO FILM & TV ACCESS RESOLUTION NO. 25-5475

Date: 2/2/2026
Department: Council Office/COO
Meeting Date: 2/17/2026

Presenter(s): Andrew Scott, Deputy Chief
Operations Officer
Length: 45 minutes

Prepared by: Robin Ye;
robin.ye@oregonmetro.gov

ISSUE STATEMENT

In March 2025, Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 25-5475, For the Purpose of Increasing Access to Metro Properties and Supporting the Film and Television Industry in the Greater Portland Region, sponsored by Councilors Christine Lewis and Duncan Hwang.

Deputy Chief Operating Officer Andrew Scott will report back on the progress made in the last year to achieve the goals of the resolution.

Resolution No. 25-5475 aimed to increase access to Metro parks, natural areas and properties by improving the process for securing special use permits. Its goal was to increase predictability of permitting, reduce response times and improve communications with applicants, and create stronger frameworks to balance filming opportunities while maintaining habitat. It was a stated goal to increase access to directly support local film and television industry partners by providing more reliability when selecting filming locations, which will in turn generate more economic activity in the region, support local businesses like restaurants and retailers, help workers retain family-wage jobs, and support the arts and culture economy.

ACTION REQUESTED

Metro Council lends further guidance and directive for how COO staff should balance enhancing film opportunities and protecting habitat, including how to better assess impacts on natural areas and economic benefits of allowing a permit.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Through conversation and response to COO team's presentation, be able to provide requisite directions to Special Permitting Staff to achieve desired policy changes.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

- Do the improvements to the special use permitting program meet Council's expectations for Resolution No. 25-5475, to balance increased access to parks, natural areas and other Metro properties while continuing to protect habitat and other natural resources?

- Does Council wish to see additional changes or streamlining to special use permitting to support the region's film, television, and video industry?

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The film, television, and video industry has long enjoyed filming at Metro's parks, natural areas, and other properties. Due to the constraints of filming schedules, expedient and decisive decisions for granting special use permits have a significant impact on filming locations and, potentially, the costs incurred from any delays.

Improvements to permit turnaround reduce production costs, provide reliability to industry workers, and support economic benefits in the region.

BACKGROUND

As the steward of over 19,000 acres of parks and natural areas in the region, as well as the owner and operator of additional properties and venues, Metro provides access for special events like filming through special use permits. Metro's special use permits program provides applicants with the ability to access certain properties under specific circumstances.

Oregon's pristine natural areas, its vibrant and unique culture and the talents of local artists make it an attractive location for local and national film, television, and video projects. Through the years, the industry has not only filmed many beloved movies and television series in greater Portland but has supported tens of thousands of workers in jobs that pay family wages and provide much-needed benefits, such as health insurance. The industry generates economic activity in the greater Portland region that supports local restaurants, shops and other businesses, and the industry draws visitors to the region by sparking excitement about the region's cities and natural wonders.

On March 27, 2025, Metro Council passed resolution No. 25-5475, directing staff to:

1. Streamline special use permit applications across Metro.
2. Increase predictability with applicants and proactively provide alternatives when possible.
3. Create processes that enhance filming opportunities while maintaining habitat protection.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 25-5475 and Staff Report
2. Oregon Media and Production Association Video re: Resolution No. 25-5475
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3LxGlqQlq0>)

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING ACCESS) RESOLUTION NO. 25-5475
TO METRO PROPERTIES AND SUPPORTING)
THE FILM AND TELEVISION INDUSTRY IN) Introduced by Councilor Duncan Hwang and
THE GREATER PORTLAND REGION) Councilor Christine Lewis in concurrence
) with Council President Lynn Peterson

WHEREAS, for more than a century, filmmakers in Oregon have sought to display the state's breathtaking natural beauty, featuring locations across the state in hundreds of films and television shows; and

WHEREAS, the rich backdrops of Oregon's landscape have long inspired viewers to connect with nature, be good stewards of natural areas and natural resources and visit our region's most beloved natural wonders; and

WHEREAS, Oregon has supported filmmakers for decades and has sought to foster a community that values the artistic and cultural contributions of the industry, as well as its undeniable economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, Metro is dedicated to fostering economic growth opportunities for local business, supporting arts and culture and connecting people to nature; and

WHEREAS, the film and video industry's total contribution to Oregon's economy surpassed \$5.9 billion in FY 2023; and

WHEREAS, in FY 2023, the industry employed a full-year-equivalent of 12,680 jobs and stimulated an additional 14,584 jobs by hiring local workers and attracting out-of-state dollars that support local businesses, such as restaurants, hotels and local retailers; and

WHEREAS, jobs supported by the industry offer living wages and workers have the ability to access benefits for up to two years; and

WHEREAS, Metro's support for arts and culture includes its management of Portland's 5 Centers for the Arts, which brings more than 1,000 music, theater, dance and lecture performances to the region each year; and

WHEREAS, Metro has, for over 35 years, committed to protecting land and improving parks and natural areas and currently manages over 19,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas across the region; and

WHEREAS, Metro's special use permits offer access to public lands and other Metro facilities while ensuring the health and safety of workers and visitors and while preserving sensitive habitat and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, predictable and efficient access to public lands and other Metro facilities are critical to supporting the film, television and video industry and showcasing the greater Portland region's natural beauty, the talent of its local artisans, performers, and designers and this region's unique and artistic spirit; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council directs the Chief Operating Officer to promote, support and advance the film, television and video industry and collaborate with industry partners to:

1. Streamline special use permit applications across Metro departments.
2. Increase predictability, reduce response times improve communications with applicants and proactively provide alternatives to requests whenever possible.
3. Create expectations and processes that enhance filming opportunities and maintain habitat protection.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 27th day of March 2025.

Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney

IN CONSIDERATION OF **RESOLUTION NO. 25-5465** FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING
ACCESS TO METRO PROPERTIES AND SUPPORTING THE FILM AND TELEVISION
INDUSTRY IN THE GREATER PORTLAND REGION

Date:	March 20, 2025	Prepared by: Anne Buzzini, anne.buzzini@oregonmetro.gov
Department:	Council Office	Presenter(s), (if applicable): Andrew
Meeting Date:	March 27, 2025	Scott, Deputy Chief Operating Officer
		Length: 20 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

As the steward of over 19,000 acres of parks and natural areas in the region, as well as the owner and operator of additional properties and venues, Metro provides access for special events like filming through special use permits.

Metro's special use permits program provides applicants with the ability to access certain parks, natural areas, and properties under specific circumstances. However, access to certain places—like natural areas—are complicated by Metro's dedicated to preserving habitat. Nonetheless, Metro's portfolio of parks, natural areas, and properties offers ample substitutes, and opportunities exist for modifying permitted uses to achieve both goals.

ACTION REQUESTED

Council approval of Resolution No. 25-5465, to support film and television industry partners and other residents and businesses through increased and more efficient access to Metro parks, natural areas, and properties for special uses.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Adoption of Resolution No. 25-5465 will increase access to Metro properties, facilities, parks, and natural areas by improving the process for securing special use permits. Increased access will directly support local film and television industry partners by providing more reliable filming locations, which will in generate more economic activity in the region, support local businesses like restaurants and retailers, help workers retain their family-wage jobs and benefits, and support arts and culture in the greater Portland region.

POLICY QUESTION

Should Metro's Chief Operating Officer take actions to streamline permitting and find opportunities to ease administrative burdens to support the outcomes listed above?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Council may adopt Resolution No. 25-5465 to support the local film and television industry, while benefitting other industries and residents seeking more efficient access to Metro properties, facilities, parks, and natural areas for events.

Alternative, Council may reject the resolution and retain the existing special use permitting processes. If desired, Council may further direct staff to further work with industry partners, residents, and other affected groups to find alternative solutions to their concerns.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council adopt Resolution No. 25-5465 to provide greater clarity and reliability to industry partners, and to support additional partnerships moving forward that maximize filming opportunities while continuing to protect habitat.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The film and television industry in the greater Portland region has, for decades, showcased Oregon's pristine natural areas, its vibrant and unique culture, and the talents of local artists.

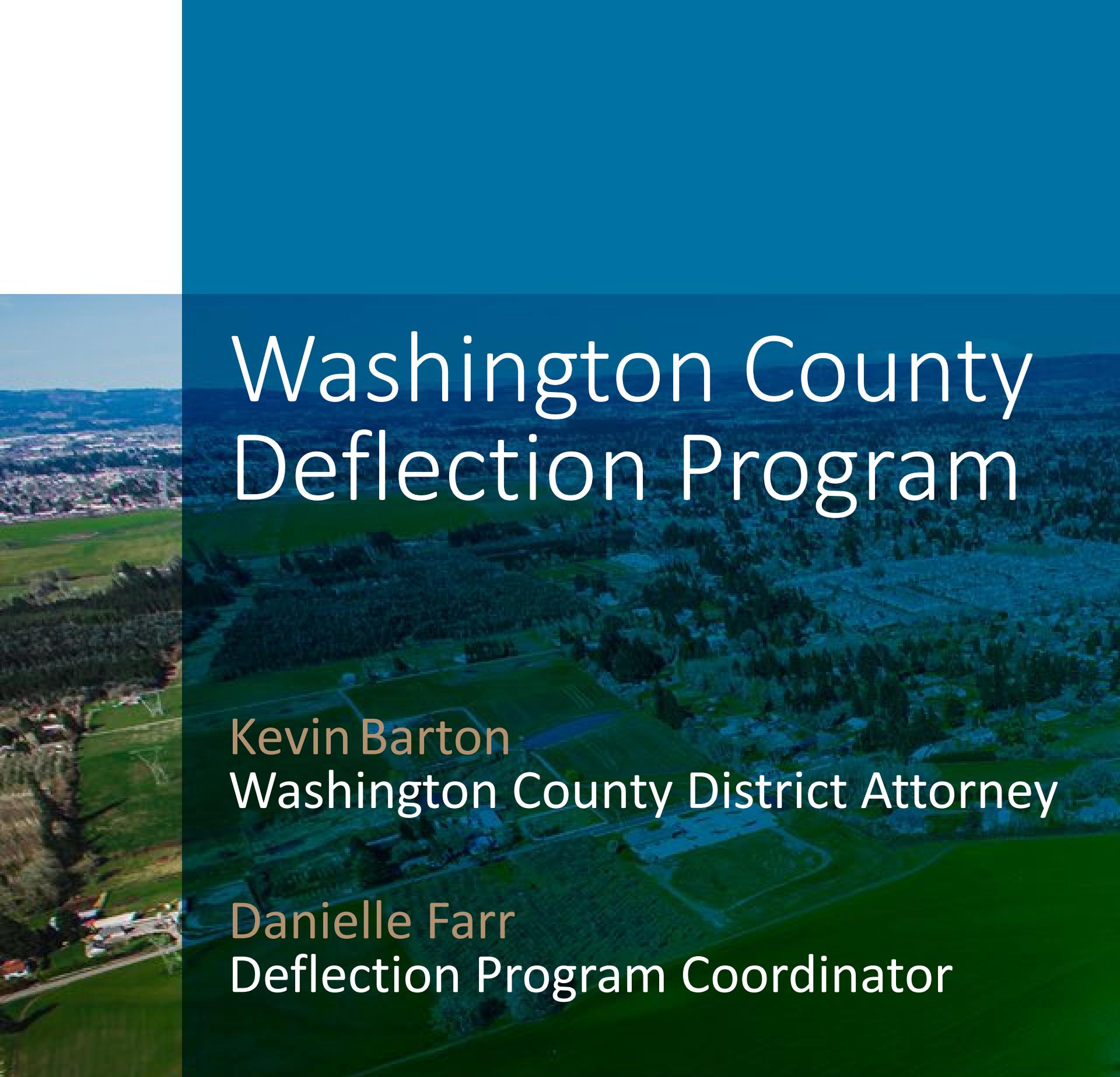
Through the years, the industry has not only filmed many beloved movies and television series in greater Portland but has supported tens of thousands of workers in jobs that pay family wages and provide much-needed benefits, such as health insurance. The industry generates economic activity in Portland that supports local restaurants, shops, and other businesses, and brings additional visitors to the region by sparking excitement about its cities and natural wonders.

Film and television industry partners would benefit directly were Metro to direct the Chief Operating Officer to identify opportunities to proactively support special use permit applicants, including a single point of contact for all types of properties, and by working collaboratively to increase predictability for applicants. More reliability during tight filming schedules saves the production money and ensures that artists expecting work are retained, paid, and can continue to access benefits.

ATTACHMENTS

None

Materials following this page were distributed at the meeting.



Washington County Deflection Program

Kevin Barton
Washington County District Attorney

Danielle Farr
Deflection Program Coordinator

| February 17, 2026



Department of
Health and Human Services



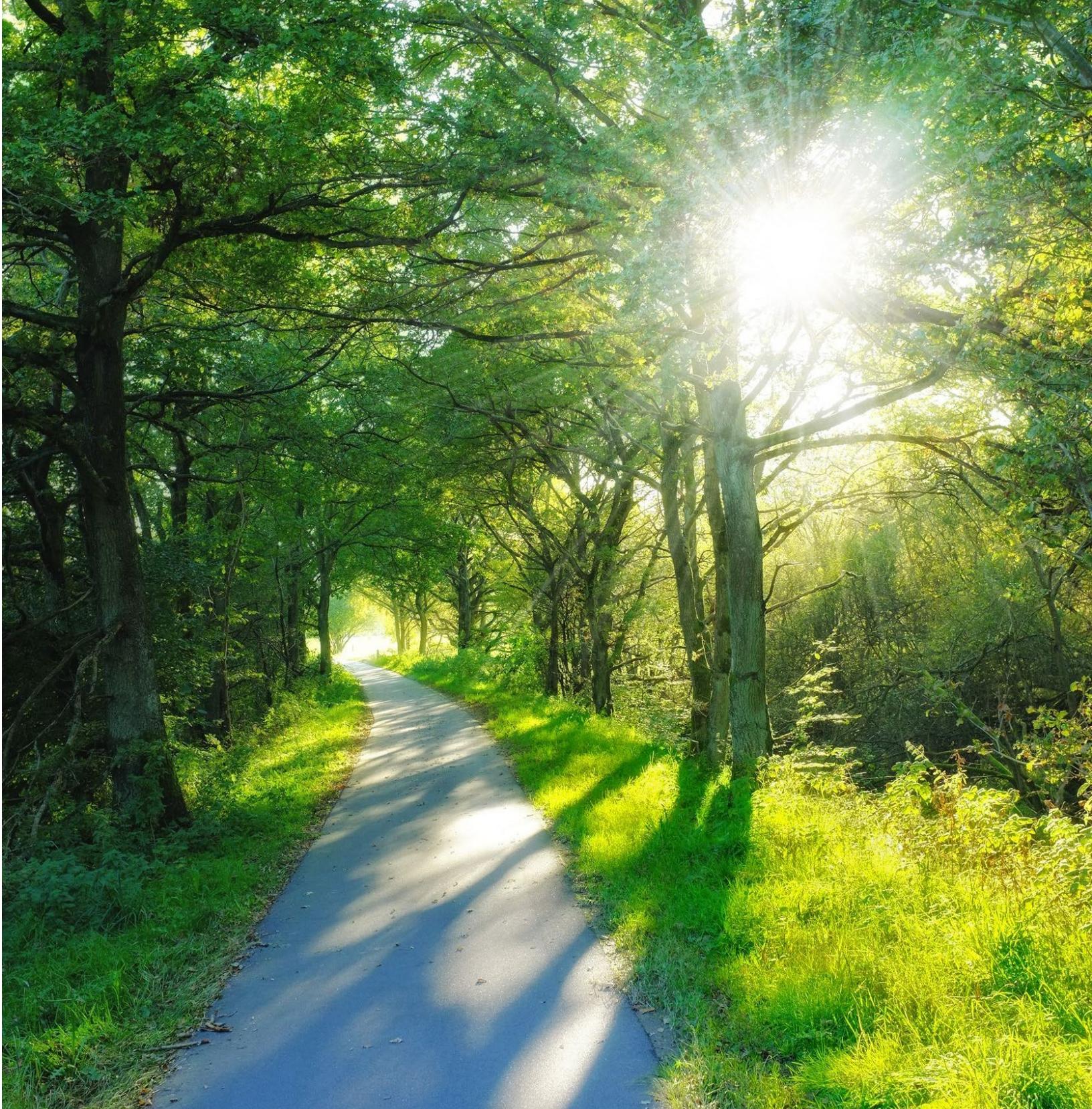
Department of Health and Human Services

www.washingtoncountyor.gov



Washington County Deflection Overview

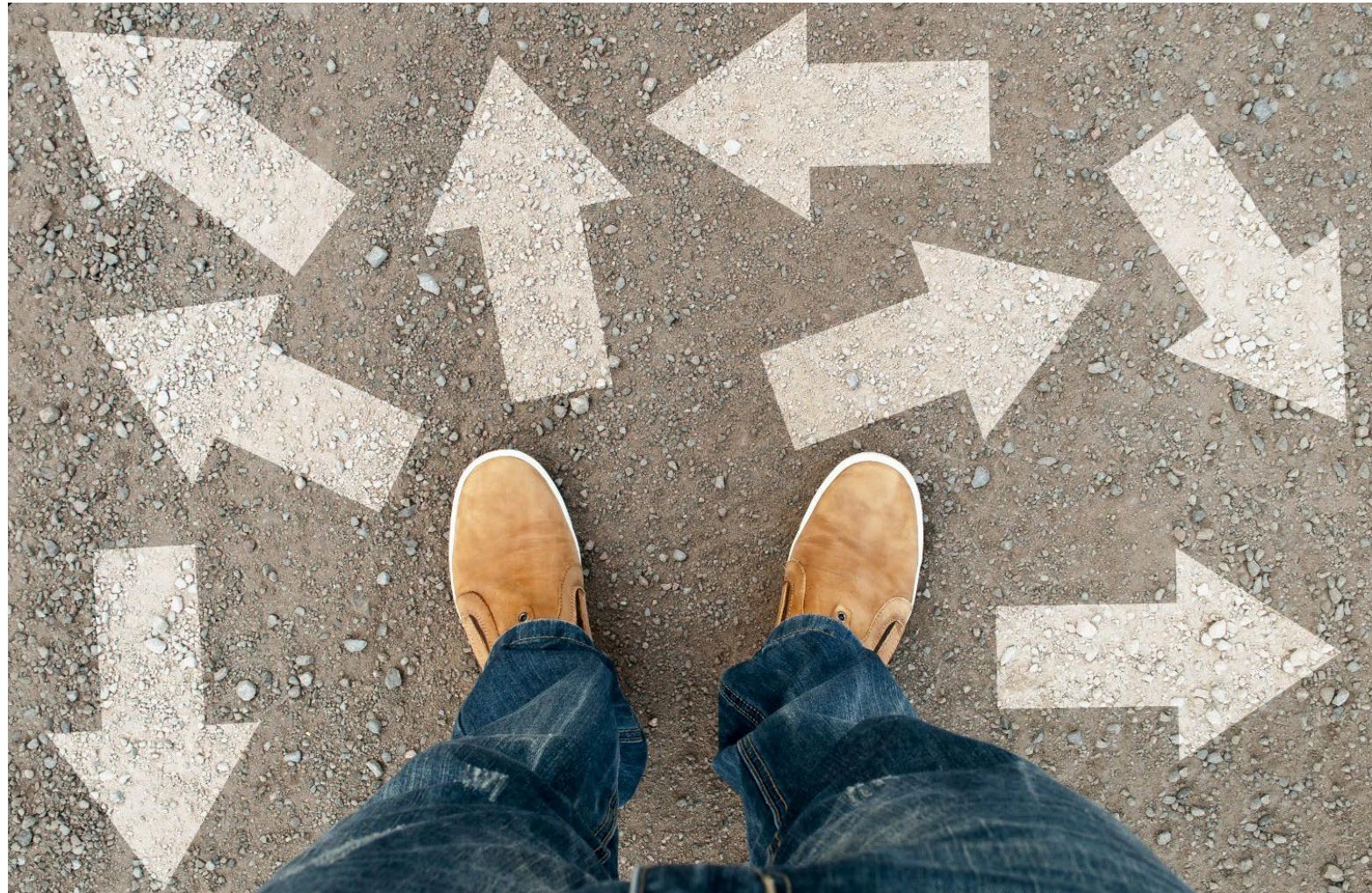
- Background and budget
- Eligibility
- Structure
- Participant experience
- Outcomes
- Challenges and strengths
- Next steps





Oregon Drug Intervention Plan

- Recriminalizes use and possession of “hard drugs”
- Prioritizes diversion, treatment and recovery over prosecution and jail
- Maintains cannabis taxes for expanded prevention, treatment and recovery services
- Expands penalties for drug dealers
- **Creates four pathways to treatment**
 - ✓ **Pre-court diversion (“deflection”)**
 - ✓ Court diversion (“conditional discharge”)
 - ✓ Court-required formal supervision
 - ✓ Revocation of probation w/early release to treatment



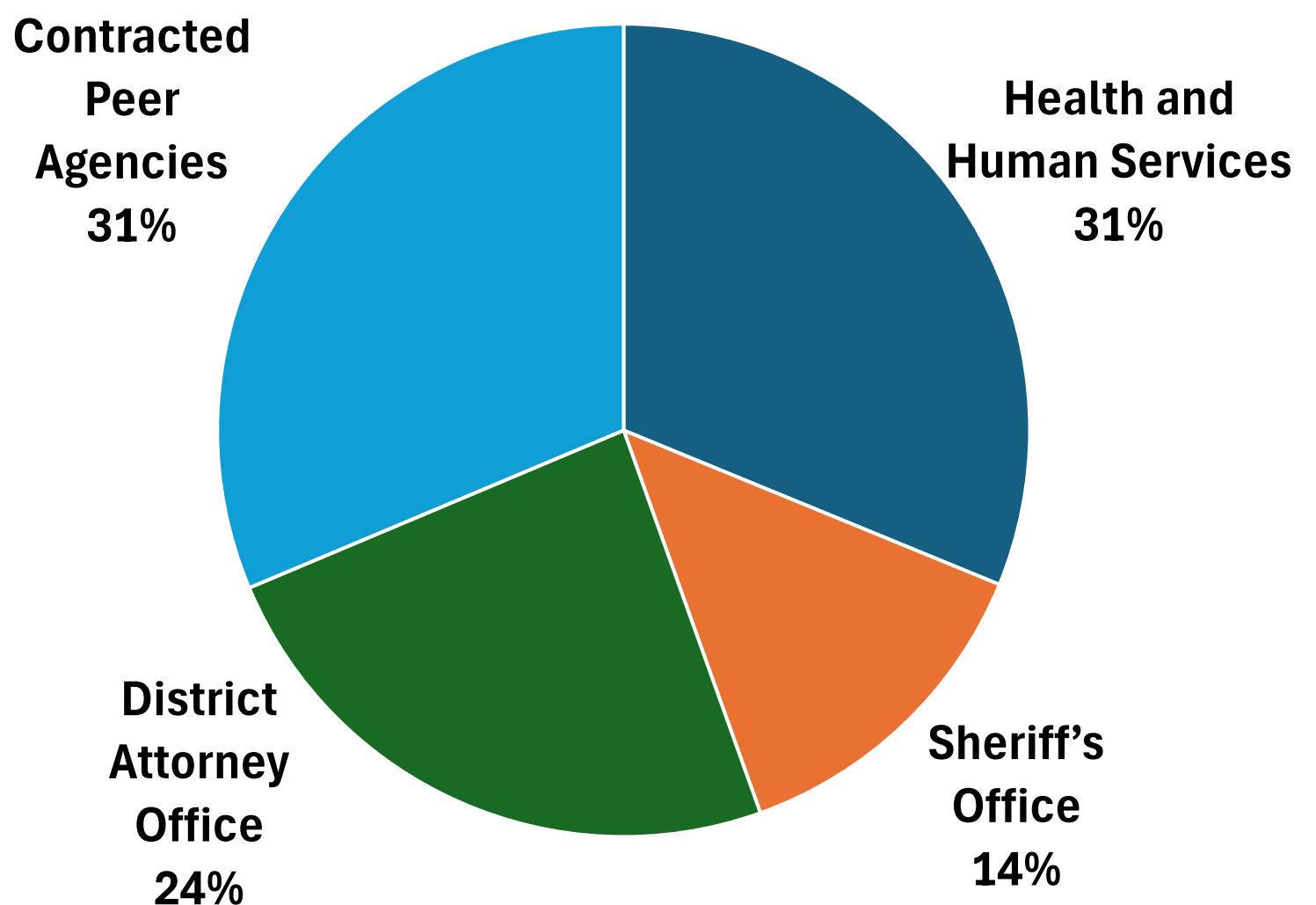


Deflection Budget

**Washington County ranks
third in the state in
deflection funding**

- Initial budget: **\$1,504,885**
- Current grant funding:
\$3,153,180

**Percentage of Personnel Cost
in Deflection Years 2025-2027**





Deflection in Washington County

Who is eligible?

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (PCS-U, PCS-A, or PCS charge plus one or more of the following:
 - Criminal Trespass I/II
 - Disorderly Conduct II
 - Theft III (when no restitution is sought)
- Not on formal supervision
- No previous deflection
- No violent felonies

How does someone enter deflection?

- Law enforcement officer cites or arrests a person for possession of a controlled substance.
- Deflection peers begin outreach efforts.
- If eligible, a person must choose to enter the program before the court process starts.



Successful Completion

What counts as “success”?

- Person completes a SUD assessment.
- Person successfully engages in SUD treatment recommendations while in Deflection.

AND

- Person demonstrates they will likely continue to successfully engage in treatment once Deflection ends.



Deflection Leadership and Team Chart at Washington County

Deflection Planning and Implementation Team (DPIT)

County
Administrative
Office (CAO)

Behavioral Health
Resource Network
(BHRN)

Community
Corrections

District Attorney
Office (WCDA)

Health and
Human Services
(HHS)

County
Counsel

Sheriff's Office
(WCSO)

Deflection Operations Team (DOT)

Deflection Sr.
Program
Coordinator

Deflection District
Attorney

Deflection
Lieutenant

Community
Corrections
Liaison

Behavioral Health
Resource Network
(BHRN) Rep

Deflection Peer
Delivered Services
Supervisors

Housing Services
Program Manager

Deflection
Program
Navigator



Six Months of Supported Coordination





Washington County Deflection Milestones

HB 4002 passes
April 2024

Deflection begins
September 2024

First completion
January 2025

100 participants
served
October 2025

Planning phase
April 2024

PCS-A expansion
January 2025

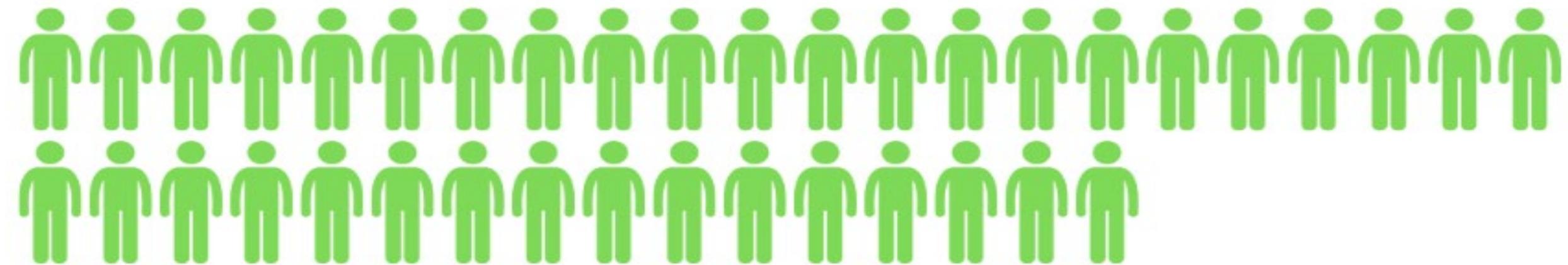
Co-charges expansion
July 2025

Program expansion
Spring 2026

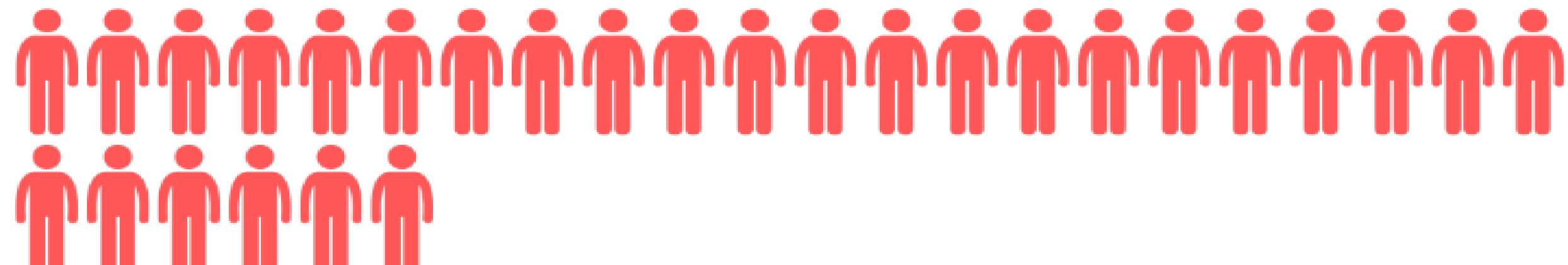


120 People Served in Deflection (9/5/2024-2/3/2026)

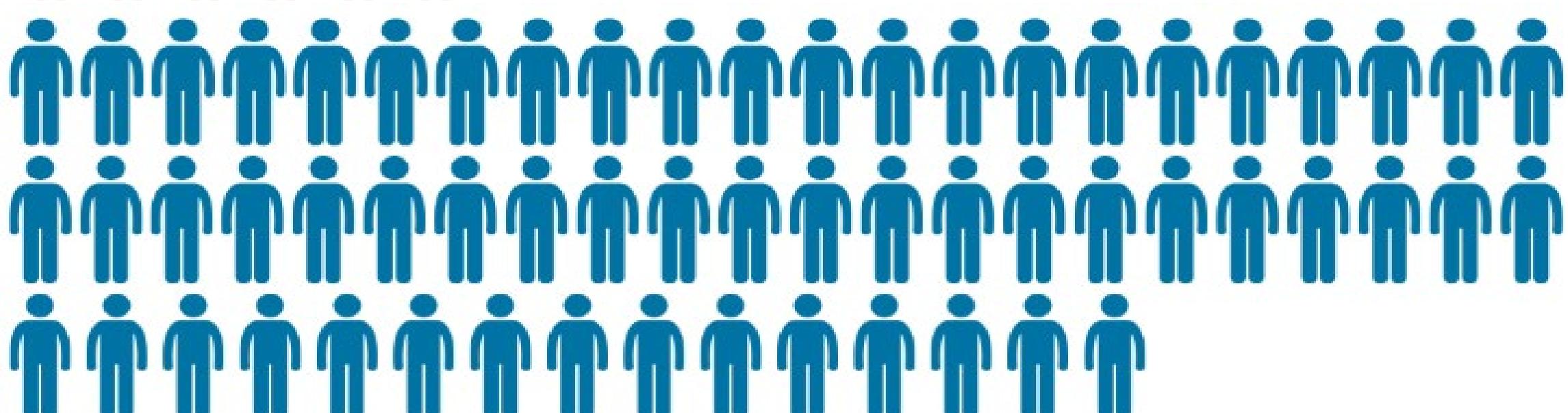
38
Successful
Completions



27
Active Participants



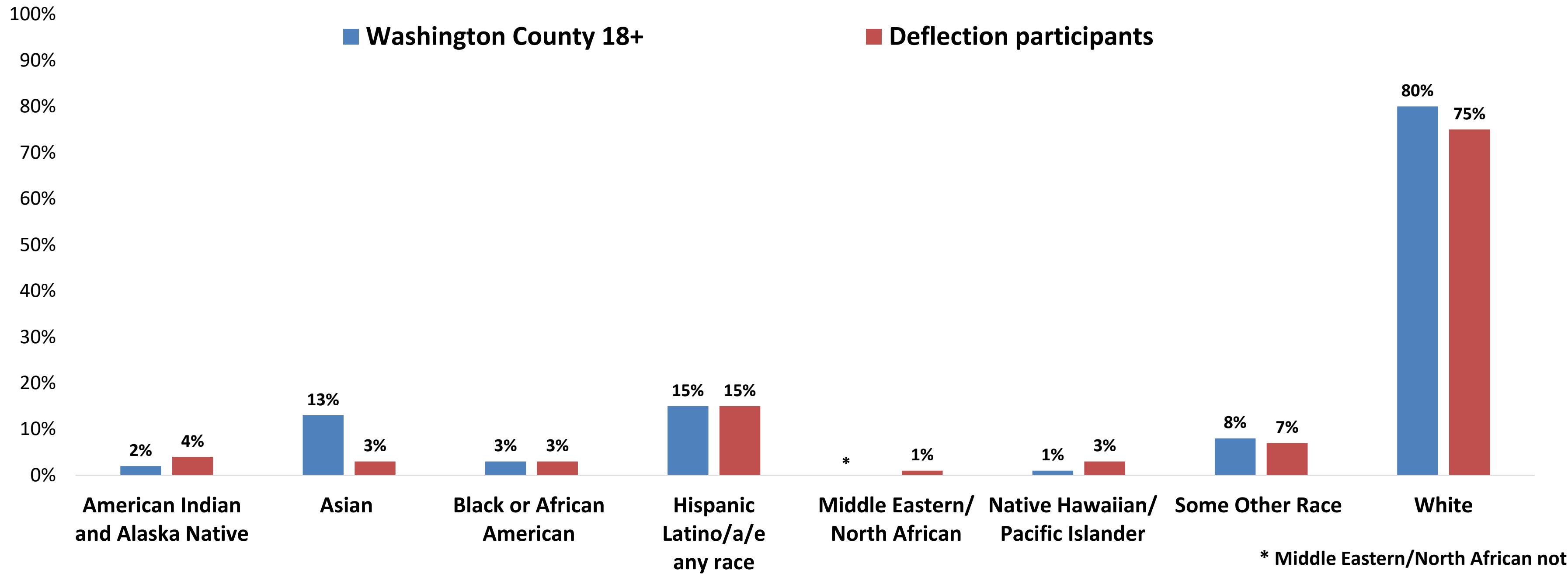
59
Other Exits





Participation Reflects Our Community

Deflection participant race/ethnicity compared to Washington County population 18 and over

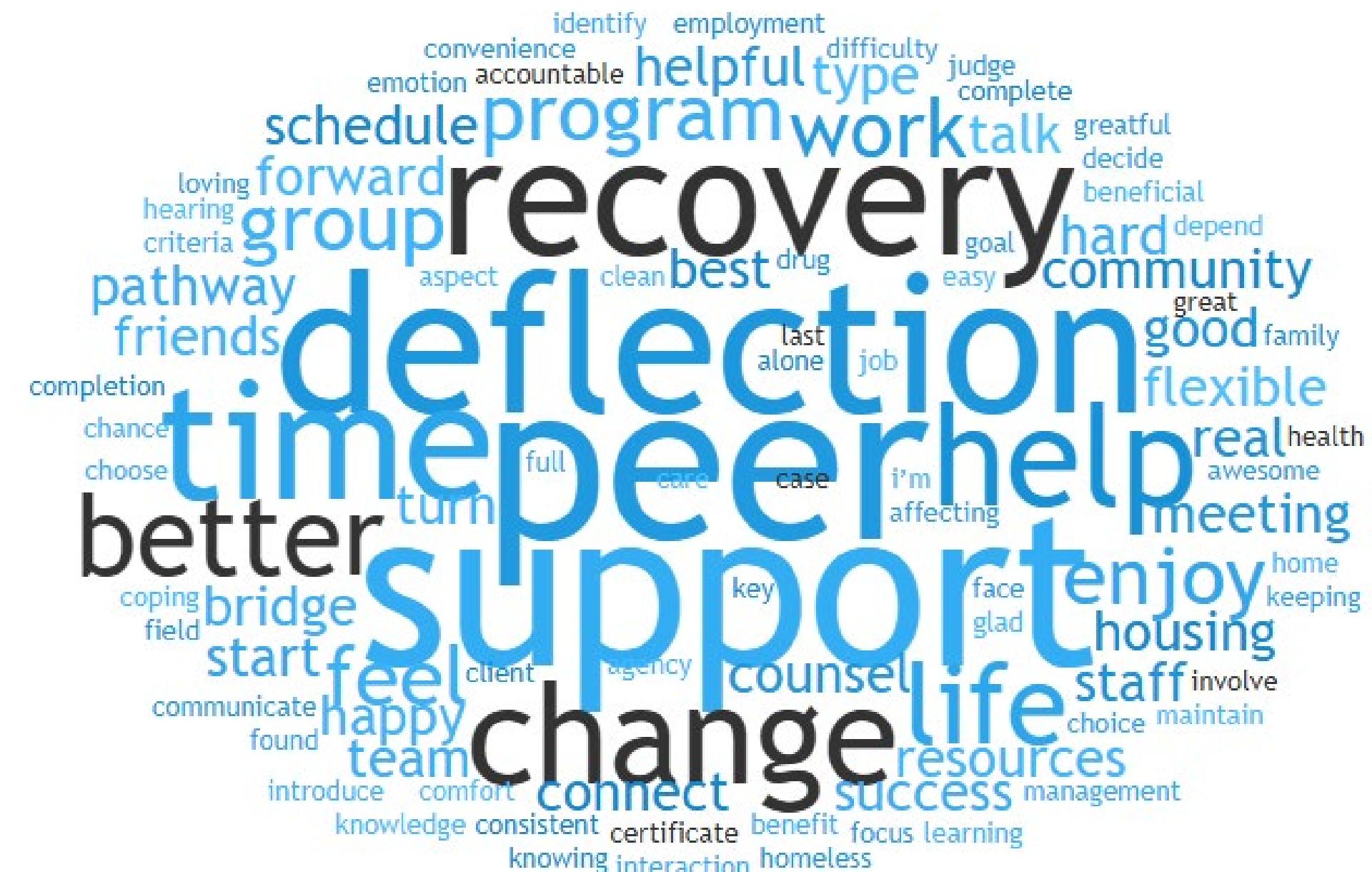


Deflection participant data from 9/1/24 to 9/1/25. Washington County population statistics from American Community Survey, 2021 5-year estimate ages 18 and over



Program findings

- **Nearly one in three (32%)** report first time in treatment.
- **One quarter (25%)** have experienced an overdose before.
- **Nearly three in four (72%)** are experiencing some form of homelessness when entering the program.
- **15** participants went from unsheltered to sheltered.





Challenges

- High loss of contact
- High public interest → intense scrutiny
- Admin costs discouraged despite high need
- Sustaining partnerships demands heavy investment
- Constant program shifts: quality vs. quantity, data and definitions





Strengths

- Strong stakeholder support
- High quality early data allows for building our narrative
- Data collection may offer other funding opportunities in the future.
- Positive outcomes increase buy-in and enthusiasm

“I’m glad that I got deflection, because I had tried treatment but was never successful. Ever since I got deflection in my life, I’ve been able to do outpatient treatment, and I’m really glad to be sober and happy.”



Looking Forward

- Implement new data management software
- Begin jail in-reach efforts
- Implement contingency management supports
- Add a non-citation pathway
- Build additional service partnerships





Questions and Discussion



wcot.us/deflection



February 17, 2026

Update on Resolution 25-5475

Film permitting

Purpose of today's update

- Overview of Parks & Nature special-use permit process
- Findings since Resolution 25-5475
- Areas for additional guidance
- What's working well
- Next steps

Overview: Special-use permits

- Temporary, conditional approval for activities outside typical park use
- Examples: classes, sports, weddings, commercial film shoots
- Free to apply
- Typical lead time: 30–365 days

How permit review works

- Special-use permit coordinators = dedicated point of contact for questions, intake and coordination
- Application received → holds placed on requested spaces
- Review by subject-matter experts:
 - Park operations
 - Conservation
 - Site stakeholders
 - Activity specialists

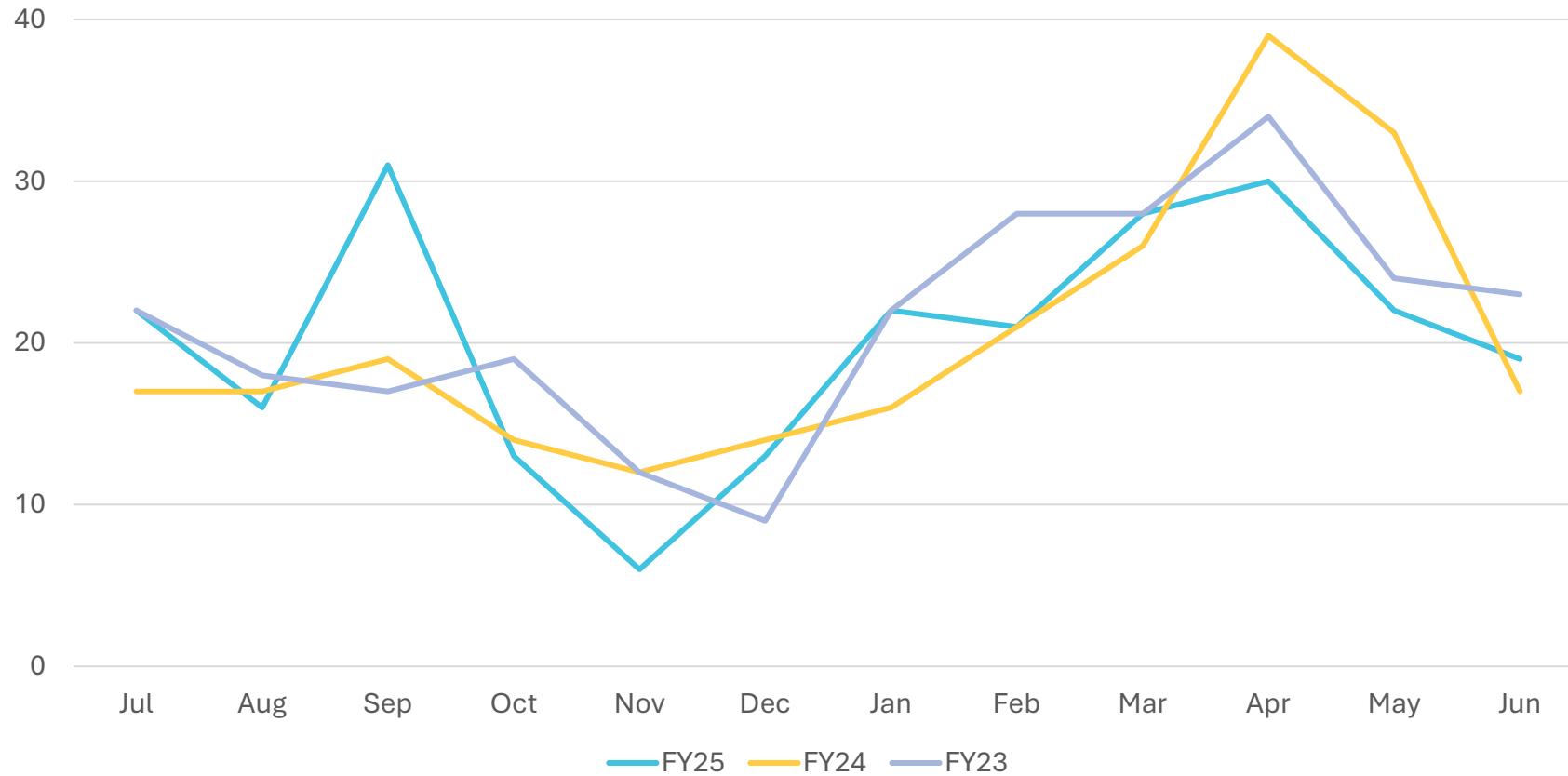
What we evaluate

- Habitat and ecosystem impacts
- Safety
- Effects on other park users
- Staffing needs
- If concerns arise, staff look for solutions that fit site needs and applicant goals

After approval

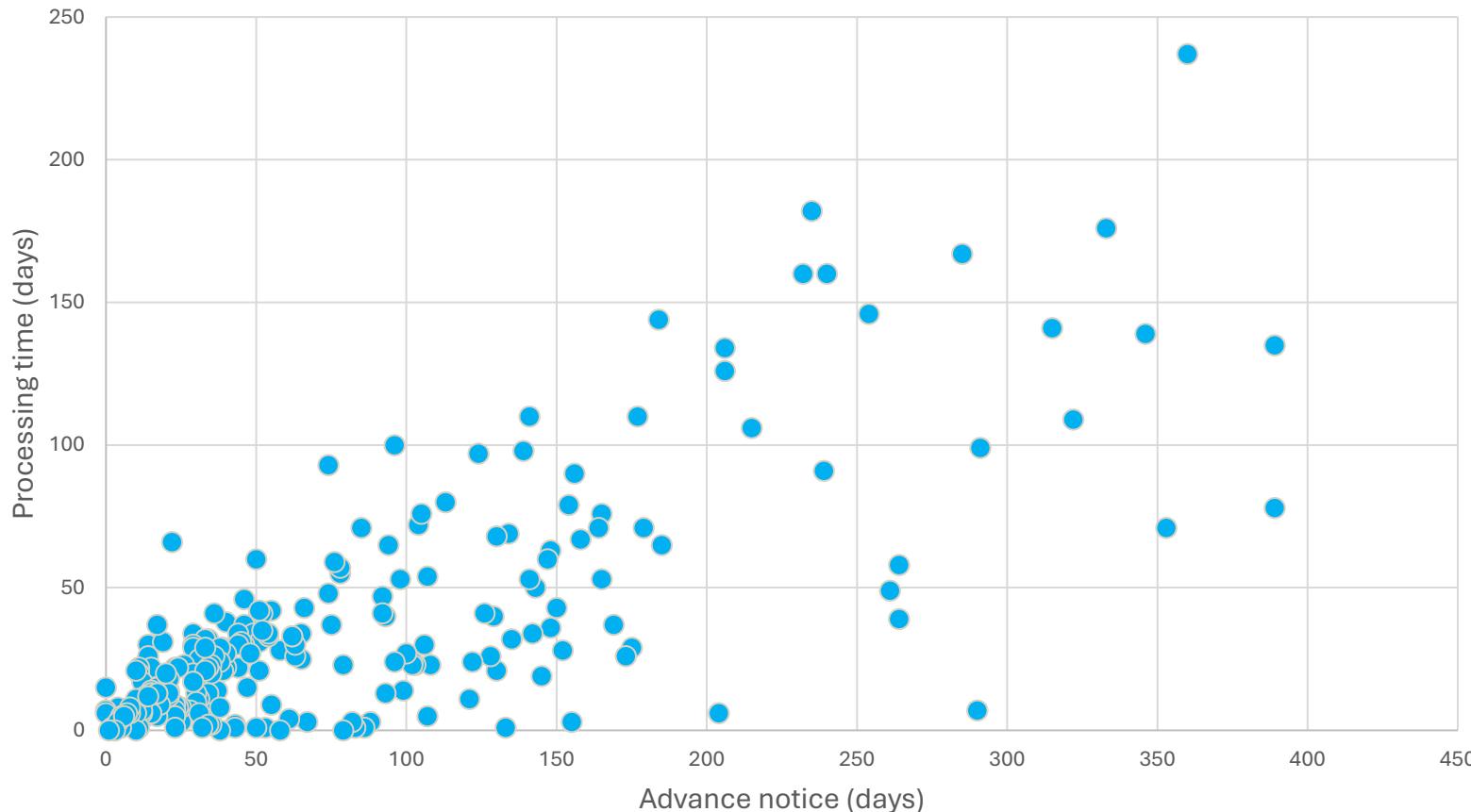
- Draft permit
- Calculate fees
- Confirm requirements (insurance, portable restrooms, etc.)
- Coordinate logistics & administration

Applications received (FY22-23 to FY 24-25)



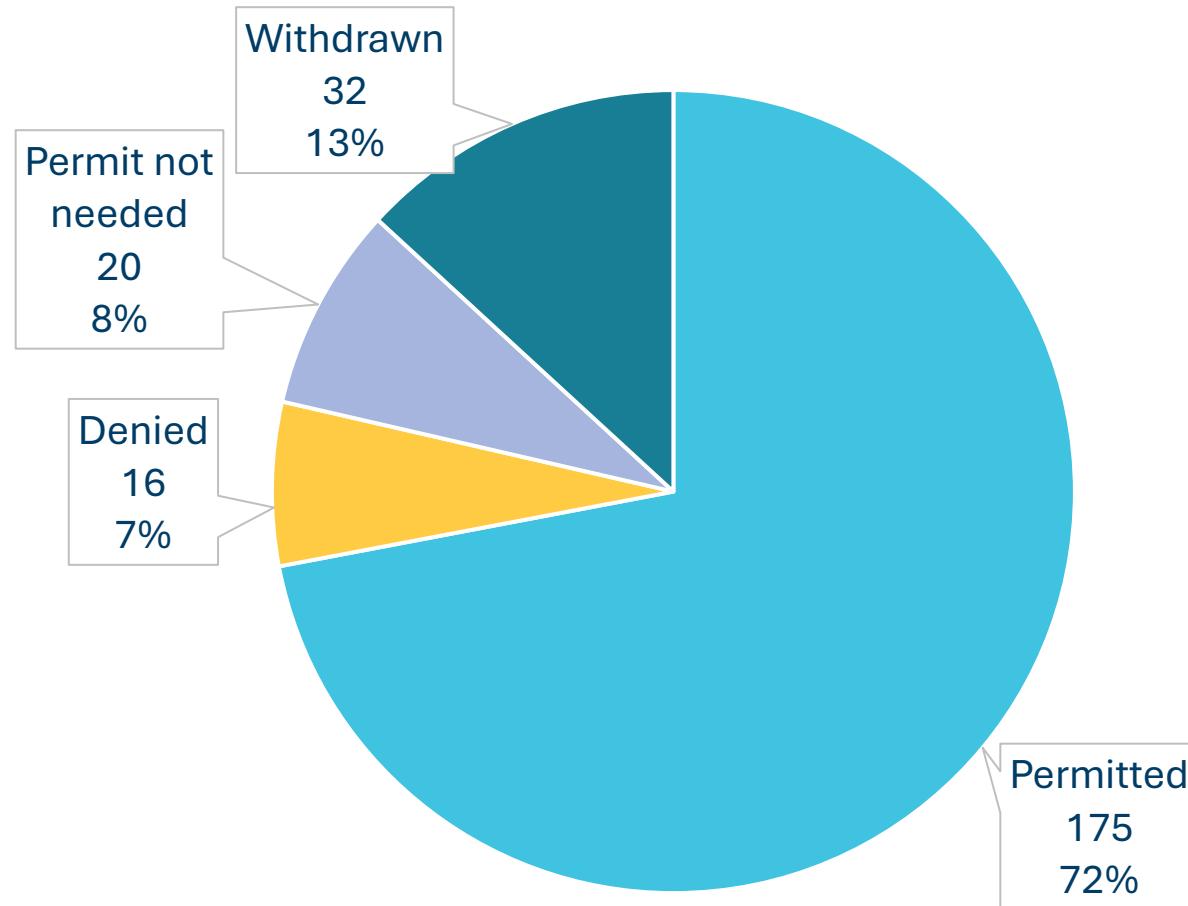
Parks and Nature receives approximately 245 SUP applications each year, with applications typically peaking in April.

Application processing time (all activities, FY24-25)



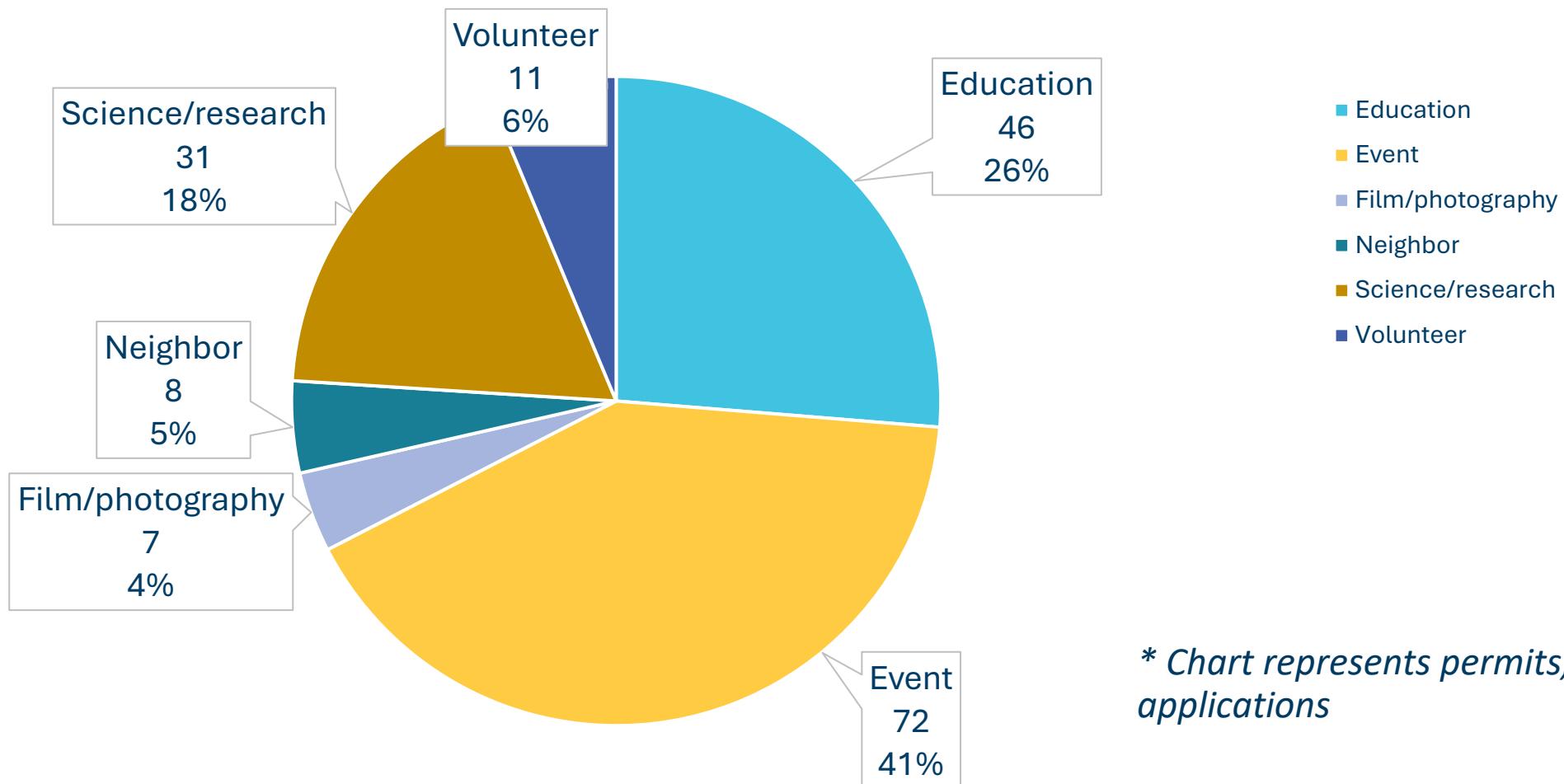
- Median processing time: 23 days
- Nearly all applications processed well before activity date, even at short notice
- Processing time measured in calendar days (including weekends)
- Regular communication with applicants throughout review

Application outcomes (all activities, FY24-25)

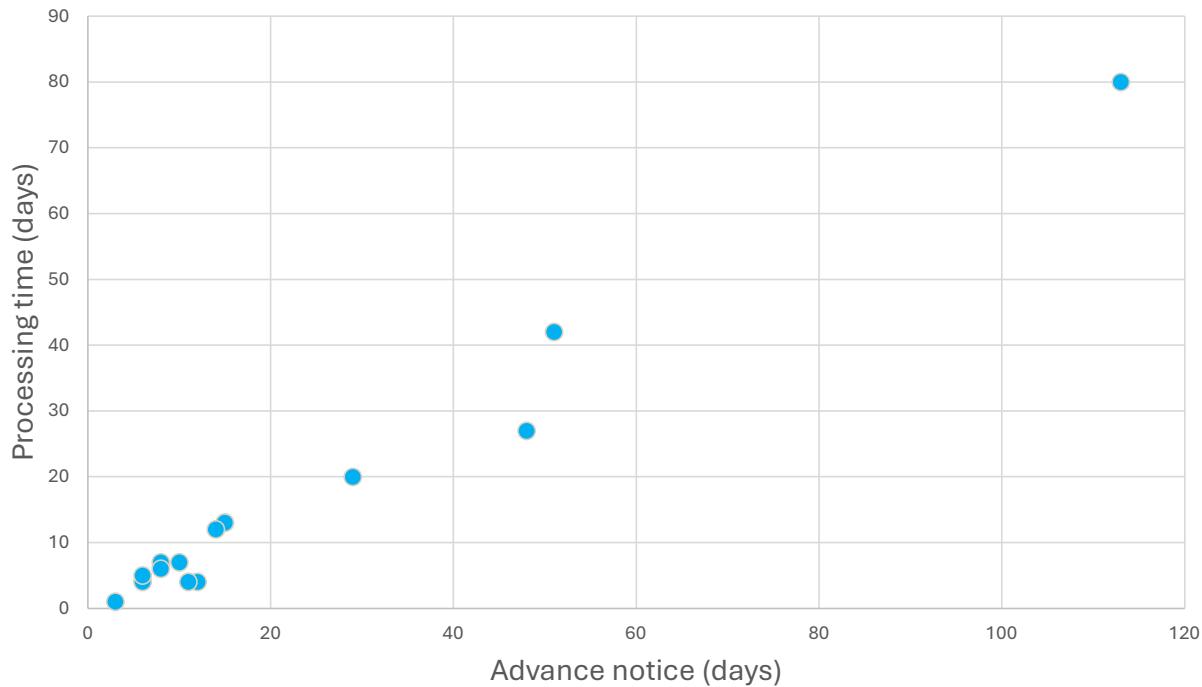


- 175 applications (72%) were approved and permitted
- Only 16 applications (7%) were denied. Common reasons for denials include:
 - Scheduling conflicts
 - Risk and safety concerns
 - Wildlife disturbance
 - Significant disruption to public benefit

Types of activities permitted (FY24-25)

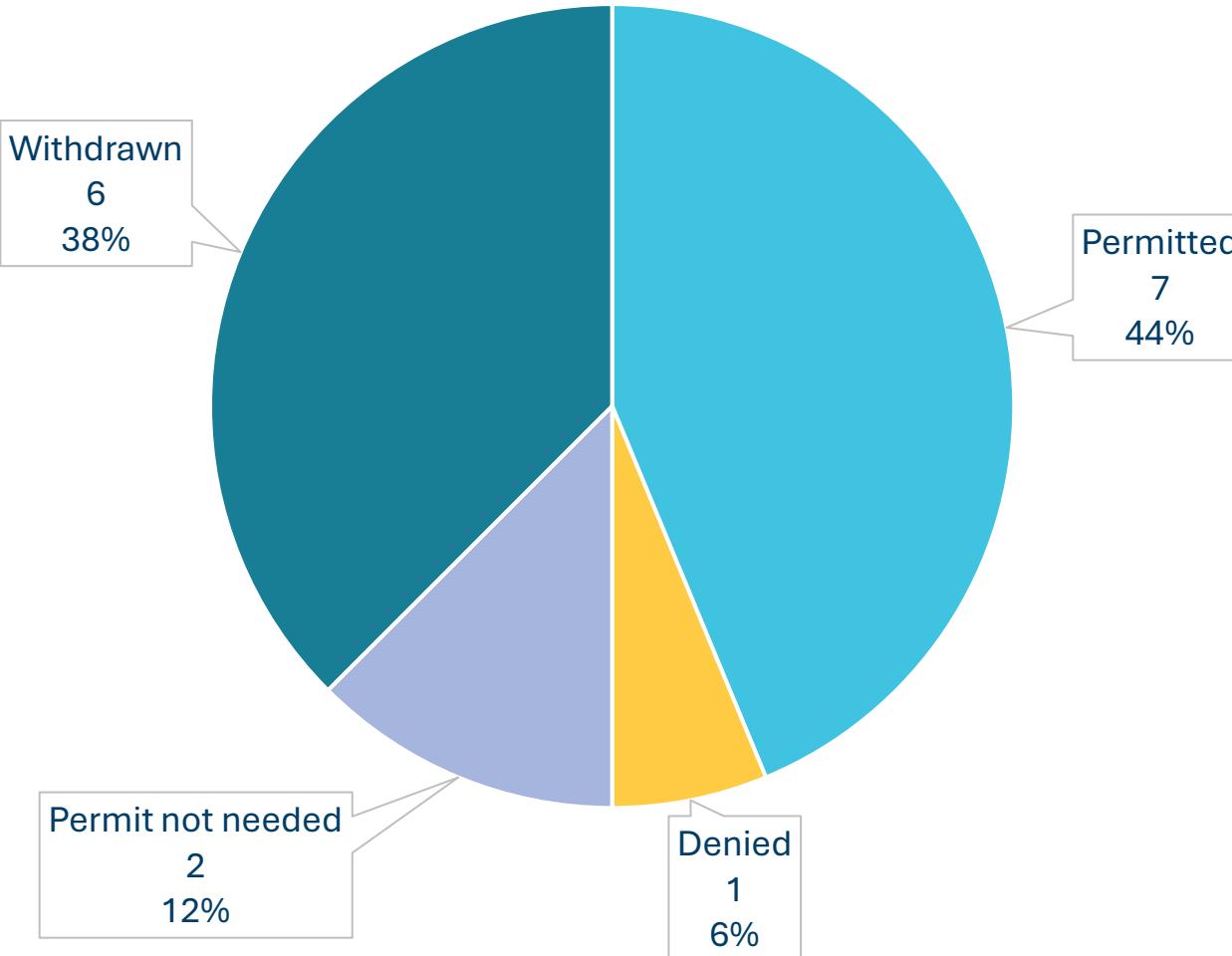


Application processing time (film/photo, FY24-25)



- Median processing time: 7 days
- All applications processed well before activity date, even at short notice
- Processing time measured in calendar days (including weekends)
- Regular communication with applicants throughout review

Application outcomes (film/photo, FY24-25)



Actions taken since Resolution

- Internal conversations across teams
- Reviewed program data
- Brought additional focus to film permitting
- Reviewed feedback to understand challenges
- PN staff continue to prioritize where possible

Areas needing further guidance

- Economic development as a new priority:
 - Resolution introduces a new permitting consideration
 - Need shared expectations on balancing this with conservation mandate
- Scenarios where this is showing up:
 - Rapid turnaround requests
 - Green dressing (adding plants on-site)
 - Bumping community groups (rescheduling existing users)

What's going well

- Positive feedback from staff and councilors
- Permits often move quickly and smoothly
- Strong examples of successful productions in PN sites

“Twinless” (2025)

- Reached out 17 days before shoot
- Staff reviewed pre-application to meet timeline
- Weather delay → strong communication → successful shoot
- Premiered at Sundance
- Portland-set film



Next steps

- Engage film industry stakeholders
- Begin change-design work
- Return to Council if more direction or resources needed
- Seek clearer guidance on balancing conservation & economic development



Thank you

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