

Community Health Equity Coalition



March 21, 2023

The Community Health Equity Coalition represents more than 80 Community-Based Organizations providing a wide-range of culturally and linguistically responsive services to more than 500,000 marginalized Oregonians across the state. To continue this vital work, we ask for your support of the Oregon Health Authority's 2023-25 Public Health Modernization Policy Option Package request of \$286M which includes **\$100M for Community-Based Organization Public Health Engagement.**

Since the start of the pandemic Oregon's legislature approved funding that enabled OHA to mobilize more than 150 Community-Based Organizations throughout the state positioned to quickly reach and respond to the urgent needs of Oregonians with various lived experiences who are faced with health disparities and struggle to access formal healthcare systems.

Community-Based Organizations have a unique and essential role in reducing health care costs by implementing preventive health programs, promoting health literacy, and increasing access to health and social resources in rural and urban communities throughout Oregon.

Collectively members of our Coalition have been working to respond to public health emergencies, support community members in crisis, and help to keep families from losing power, going hungry and/or becoming homeless.

We appreciate the legislature's unwavering commitment to health equity and ask that OHA's Public Health Modernization POP is fully funded so that Community-Based Organizations may continue leveraging already existing relationships to ensure that all Oregonians have the flexible community-based supports they need to lead happy and healthy lives.

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