

February 5, 2024



Dear Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Nguyen, Vice Chair Scharf, and members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services,

I am writing on behalf of Lane County to share our support for HB 4105, which would appropriate state general funds to provide the non-federal match funding necessary for Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) programs to receive Medicaid reimbursement across the state.

NFP is a nurse home visiting program for first-time parents-to-be, starting early in the pregnancy and continuing through the child's second birthday. With the support of an NFP nurse, families experience better pregnancy outcomes, improved child health and development, and greater economic self-sufficiency. Parents, babies, families, and communities all benefit from the proven services of NFP. NFP has operated in Oregon since 1999 and in Lane County since 2012.

NFP programs in Oregon rely on Medicaid to pay for their services to families, but Medicaid requires non-federal match funding which is currently being paid by county health departments. Having counties pay the non-federal Medicaid match puts NFP out of alignment with how nearly all Medicaid services in Oregon are supported by a state match. It also is a deviation from how other evidence-based home visiting programs are supported with state dollars without a county match, such as Healthy Families Oregon or Family Connects.

This funding arrangement creates a threat to the sustainability of NFP in counties implementing the program. This is a significant issue for Lane County as we continue to navigate budgetary challenges. Also, counties who cannot pay the match funding are unable to implement an NFP program, creating health inequities and disparate outcomes throughout Oregon.

Lane County supports NFP's request for state general funds to provide the non-federal Medicaid match for NFP programs. This funding would be appropriated to the Health Systems Division of the Oregon Health Authority. This will allow NFP programs in Oregon more certainty to provide services and would help NFP continue expanding in future years to counties that do not have programs.

Thank you for your service to our state and for your consideration of this request.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eve Gray", is located below the thank you message.

**Eve Gray, RN, MSN, CPHQ, CMPE**

Director, Health and Human Services

Lane County, Oregon