

SB 161 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 1/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$5 million to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to make grants to specified entities for the purpose of developing, facilitating or sponsoring workforce training programs.

Detailed summary:

- Appropriates \$5 million to OHA for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025.
- Directs OHA to disburse grants to the Oregon Community Health Workers Association (\$1,500,000), the Oregon Mobile Integrated Health Coalition (\$1,500,000), and the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (\$2,000,000).
- In addition to development of workforce training programs, allows grant funds to be used for wraparound supports for trainees, professional development activities, and support for employer organizations.
- Requires recipients to report annually to OHA on the progress of the workforce development activities.
- Takes effect on the 91st day after the Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

Fiscal impact: Not yet issued

Revenue impact: Not yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Local public health offices in Oregon administer a broad range of programs, including emergency preparedness, overdose prevention, and HIV prevention and treatment. These services are funded and administered through a system of federal, state, and local agencies, private organizations, and communities. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Conference of Local Health Officials (CLHO) work together, pursuant to ORS 421.330, to administer and implement public health programs.

Researchers estimate that nationally, nearly half of all employees in state and local public health agencies left between 2017 and 2021, including higher rates for workers under the age of 35 ([link](#) to Health Affairs article (2023)). According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, states have responded with various approaches strengthen workforce pipelines, including training, incentives, and employee benefits ([link](#) to NCSL (2024)).