

HB 3916 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/25, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to award grants to address and support specified workforce development needs and activities.

Detailed Summary:

- Appropriates \$5,000,000 to OHA out of the General Fund.
- Requires OHA to award grants to specified entities to support workforce development activities:
 - \$1,500,000 to the Oregon Community Health Workers Association
 - \$1,500,000 to the Oregon Mobile Integrated Healthcare Coalition
 - \$2,000,000 to the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials
- Before issuing a grant, requires OHA to enter into an agreement with grant recipient documenting the activities that grant funds will be used for. Specifies permitted uses of grant funds.
- Requires grant recipients to report biannually to OHA on the progress of workforce development activities.
- Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: *May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

REVENUE: *May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Workforce needs in public health, particularly in rural areas.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Diverts \$3,500,000 to the Office of Rural Health in the Oregon Health and Science University. Specifies \$1,500,000 for mobile integration health workforce development activities and \$2,000,000 for local public health workforce development and retention activities.

FISCAL: *Fiscal impact issued*

REVENUE: *No revenue impact*

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)).

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PRELIMINARY