Date

Ann Thomas, MD, MPH

Public Health Physician

Acute and Communicable Disease Prevention Program

RE: Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases Cooperative Agreement

Dear Dr. Thomas:

This letter is to express support of the Oregon Conference of Local Health Officials (CLHO) for the State of Oregon’s 2019 application for funds as part of the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases Cooperative Agreement under CFC-RFA-CK19-1904.

The purpose of ELC funding is to help prevent disease through enhanced surveillance of known and emerging infectious diseases and other public health threats. In Oregon, it is a major source of funding for staff at the Oregon Health Authority who provide support to Oregon counties by providing: training courses and webinars in disease prevention and control and outbreak investigation to local health department staff; maintenance of efficient information systems to streamline transfer of information between clinical labs and hospitals, local health departments, the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory, and the Acute and Communicable Disease Prevention program; support for laboratorians, equipment and supplies to deliver rapid testing and reporting of results; and 24/7 availability of technical assistance for management of communicable diseases and outbreak investigations.

The Coalition (CLHO) is Oregon’s SACCHO and represents all of Oregon’s thirty-four local health departments. Local health departments, by Oregon Revised Statue, serve as the Local Public Health Authority. CLHO uses a joint CLHO-Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division, Communicable Disease Committee process to analyze communicable disease needs, as well as to provide consultation on funding applications. This process is conducted via in person and teleconference meetings with state and local health department representatives at regularly scheduled meeting times. The process described above led to the coordinated development of the application.

Sincerely,

Tricia Mortell

Chair, Conference of Local Health Officials