

2019-2021 Tobacco Prevention Education Program Tiered Funding Model

Joint Communication to Conference of Local Health Officials from CLHO
Prevention and Health Promotion Committee

July 12, 2019

During Summer 2017, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Conference of Local Health Officials (CLHO) committed to revisiting the Tobacco Prevention Education Program (TPEP) funding formula to reflect expectations aligned with public health modernization strategies. A workgroup was formed to collaborate, plan, and offer criteria to ensure that the local TPEP investment is right-sized, and administered in the most effective manner possible statewide. The TPEP Accountability Metrics Workgroup was convened in February 2018 to identify outcomes that could be expected within the next biennium. Equipped with findings from the TPEP Accountability Metrics Workgroup, OHA and CLHO Prevention and Health Promotion convened a TPEP Funding Formula Workgroup beginning September 2018 to develop a funding formula aligned with outcomes and accountability metrics. Guided by shared tobacco prevention values, a tiered funding model was developed in partnership to advance tobacco prevention policy and systems change initiatives in communities with attention and focus to reducing tobacco-related health disparities.

The TPEP tiered funding model was developed with careful consideration of the 2018-2019 CLHO TPEP Funding Formula Workgroup recommendations, the Public Health Advisory Board funding principles, and the CLHO Funding Formula Checklist. The model offers the flexibility to nimbly deliver resources to local public health authorities (LPHAs) based on total tobacco prevention funding made available to OHA. The tiered funding model allows LPHAs to opt in at the level of outcomes they can achieve. The model incorporates policy and systems change approaches that have traditionally been funded through competitive grants.

The model aligns with TPEP Program Element 13, incorporates the TPEP Accountability Metrics, and incorporates flexibility and clear expectations. Each tier has a defined scope of work and includes sample activities and deliverables. Funding ranges are provided within tiers, and final awards will be determined based on proposed strategies, incorporation of a health equity lens, population, and average number of Indoor Clean Air Act (ICAA) complaints. Tier 3 award amounts will also be determined based on demonstrated success and capacity for advancement of tobacco policy and systems change strategies. Additionally, OHA has received feedback from several LPHAs that local tobacco prevention policy change proves challenging given organizational or political hurdles. In response, the tiered proposal includes a fourth category “ICAA Response Tier,” to ensure that LPHAs that opt out of full funding for tobacco prevention can still fulfill local duties and activities related to enforcing the ICAA as required by law.

CLHO Prevention and Health Promotion Committee met on July 11th and voted to approve moving the new funding model forward. Full CLHO will meet on July 18th to clarify additional questions about the new funding model. Once CLHO votes to approve moving forward, OHA will reconvene the CLHO TPEP Workgroup in late July to refine the new program plan and final program guidance. The new program plan, budget and program guidance will be disseminated to LPHAs in early August due back to OHA within three weeks. During this period, OHA staff will be available to consult and support local program plan development. In September, final awards will be negotiated. FY20 and FY21 contract amendment amounts will be determined based on the total biennial award amount minus the 90-day bridge funding amount allocated to each program.

OHA is committed to rigorous and transparent evaluation of the new tiered funding model. CLHO will be an integral partner in the evaluation of the tiered funding model and in ensuring that we are moving the dial on statewide tobacco prevention outcomes. The coordinated movement involves state and local programs working together to achieve sustainable policy, systems and environmental change in local communities that mobilize statewide. Together, we will meet our shared goals to prevent kids from using tobacco, reduce exposure to secondhand smoke and vapor, reduce disparities for tobacco use, and help tobacco users quit.

Thank you to all the CLHO members who have participated in this collaborative process. We have greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn, and we are committed to maintaining a strong partnership.