



THE OREGON CONFERENCE OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

Conference of Local Health Officials

June 17, 2021

Climate and Health Program
Attn: Dan Burrows, Project Officer
US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
US Department of Health and Human Services

RE: Support for Oregon's Application to CDC-RFA-EH21-2101: Building Resilience Against Climate Effects: Implementing and Evaluating Adaptation Strategies that Protect and Promote Human Health

Dear CDC Climate and Health Program Team:

On behalf of the Oregon Conference of Local Health Officials (CLHO), I am writing in support of the application from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for funding through The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) funding opportunity "Building Resilience Against Climate Effects: Implementing and Evaluating Adaptation Strategies that Protect and Promote Human Health."

The Oregon Conference of Local Health Officials (CLHO) serves as a forum for officials of local public health authorities (LPHAs) and the Oregon Public Health Division to come together and discuss expectations, funding, program elements, and other governmental public health issues. Each of the 32 LPHAs work to provide services and resources needed by the communities they serve.

Local and state collaboration on environmental health issues is critical to strengthen capacity to protect public health. This collaboration enhances our state's ability to deliver effective, evidence-based environmental health programs, reduce the impact of environmental health hazards, and improve statewide environmental conditions.

Over the years, CLHO and OHA have collaborated to improve environmental health capacity of local public health authorities. CDC funds have passed through OHA in the form of cooperative agreements via programs including Environmental Public Health Tracking, Climate and Health, Brownfields, Health Impact Assessment, Child Lead Poisoning Prevention and Domestic Well Safety. Additionally, CLHO and OHA have collaborated in the development of strategic plans, public health policy and outreach and education about environmental health topics.

We will continue our collaboration with OHA in this new funding opportunity, where we will support and advise on the expansion and implementation of OHA's Climate and Health Program generally, and in particular engage in those components relating to:

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- utilization of the proposed new Climate and Health Workforce Development fund to cover the cost of LPHA engagement in climate and health workforce development activities, such as covering the cost of conference registration fees and other relevant trainings (Component A),
- participation in the bi-state (OR/WA) NW Climate and Health Network and other relationship-building and learning forums facilitated by the Oregon Climate and Health program (Core Component)
- informing opportunities to maximize health co-benefits of greenhouse gas mitigation actions carried out at the local level (Component B), and
- requesting and using data and informatics tools to support the evidence base for climate and health work (Component C).

Our consultation will help ensure that OHA's multi-component program is accessible and culturally appropriate for local communities across Oregon. We anticipate over the five-year grant period that OHA will channel financial support, training, and technical assistance not only to local public health authorities (LPHAs), but also to traditionally underrepresented community stakeholders to build their capacity to engage with LPHAs in this work. CLHO's Environmental Health Committee (CLHO-EH), which meets monthly with OHA's environmental health programs, will advise OHA on fundamental programmatic elements, including the method of grantee selection, award amount, scope of work, training topics, and methods of accountability. This consultation will continue throughout the duration of the new Climate and Health Program grant cycle, with OHA reporting evaluation outcomes to CHLO-EH and soliciting input on how to iteratively improve the program.

We anticipate that the OHA Climate and Health program will support activities that build local resilience against environmental health hazards and reduce health impacts and disparities associated with climate-related disasters. These resilience and capacity building efforts can ultimately lead to improved and sustained community health. We strongly support the Oregon Health Authority's application and look forward to continuing our collaboration into the future.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

Chair, Conference of Local Health Officials

