Thursday, April 20th, 2023

Laura Chisholm, Section Manager

Oregon Injury and Violence Prevention Program

800 NE Oregon St. Suite 730

Portland, OR 97215

Dear Dr. Chisholm,

The Oregon Conference of Local Health Officials (CLHO) offers this letter of support for the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division (OHA-PHD) proposal for funding of the Overdose Data to Action in States (OD2A-S, CDC-RFA-CE-23-0002) grant application. CLHO exists in Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS 431.330) to provide recommendations on foundational capabilities and Public Health Modernization to the Oregon Health Authority. CLHO is made up of representatives from each of the 33 local public health authorities (LPHAs) in Oregon, each of which provides services, implements health promotion programs, and works to advance health equity in their communities.

CLHO is supportive of OHA-PHD’s overdose prevention efforts and a partner to OHA in this work. Since October 2020, Oregon Health Authority’s Injury and Violence Prevention Program (IVPP) has funded local public health authorities in 11 regions covering 23 of Oregon’s 36 counties through the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant. This funding supported Regional Overdose Prevention Coordinator positions in areas with a high burden of overdose deaths and hospitalizations. Regional Overdose Prevention Coordinators have improved local systems for preventing and responding to overdoses by convening multisector stakeholder groups, developing and implementing overdose emergency response protocols, improving naloxone access and distribution, and implementing local prevention projects in alignment with OD2A program strategies.

There is a continuing need for local public health authorities to implement regional prevention and response activities across Oregon. Local health departments are well positioned to build upon existing prevention infrastructures and successes achieved through OD2A to implement locally tailored, culturally relevant solutions to address overdose disparities. If Oregon’s OD2A-S proposal is funded, our coalition is prepared to partner with IVPP to develop and implement a comprehensive intervention where Regional Overdose Prevention Coordinators collaborate with local health system and public safety partners, expand harm reduction initiatives, and support community linkages to care. This will enable Oregon’s state and local health departments to collaboratively and effectively respond to the evolving overdose crisis.

We look forward to the opportunity to work with the Injury and Violence Prevention Program on this important work.

Naomi Biggs, MBBS, MPH

Chair, Conference of Local Health Officials