



The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials

CLHO Legislative Committee Recommendation to the CLHO Board Federal Legislative Priorities 2023-24

Carrier(s)

1. Anthony Arton

Recommendation

In preparation for NACCHO lobbying day in February, CLHO staff would like some direction on what to focus on. In addition, CLHO can reach out to Oregon's Congressional Delegation now. As such, on October 5, the CLHO Legislative Committee recommended supporting the following 4 items as our Federal Legislative Priorities for 2023-2024.

1. **Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program ([NACCHO priority](#))**
2. **Flexible PH Funding through the CDC (NACCHO priority)**
3. **WIC Funding**
4. **PH Emergency Preparedness Grant Increase**

Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program at the Health Resources and Services Administration. The program will offer loan repayment for public health professionals who agree to serve three years in a local, state, or tribal health department.

- An annual appropriation of \$100 million could allow as many as 2,000 public health professionals to receive up to \$50,000 in student loan repayment benefits, helping health departments to recruit and retain top talent.

Flexible PH Funding through the CDC

- Fund the CDC's Public Health Infrastructure and Capacity Program at \$1 billion in FY2024.
- Sustainable, disease-agnostic, mandatory funding to support local public health infrastructure, including data modernization and workforce development.
- Direct CDC to ensure funding is making it to the local level.

WIC Funding

Because the two chambers of Congress are controlled by different parties, there is a lot of disagreement over budget priorities. WIC is in danger of being cut. We want to advocate for an increase for WIC, but in this political environment, even flat funding would be a win. Since this is such a critical program, we want to add our voices to the [choir of over 600 organizations](#) calling for full funding for WIC.

PH Emergency Preparedness Grant

There is a similar situation on the PHEP Grant, as right now there is a proposed \$980 million cut slated and [an effort to just keep flat funding](#), although we'd really like to advocate for an increase there as well.

Attendees:

10 counties present: Deschutes, Clackamas, Jackson, Lincoln, Coos, Lane, Klamath, Washington, Yamhill, Clatsop

Vote Count

Voted using raise hands in Zoom - which are the top 4 priorities?

- Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program (5 votes)
- Flexible PH Funding through the CDC (9 votes)
- Ban/regulate Kratom (and other synthetic drugs) (3 votes)
- Make Doxycycline OTC (0 votes)
- Social Media Ban for Youth (2 votes)
- WIC Funding Increase by 50% (9 votes)
- PH Emergency Preparedness Grant Increase (10 votes)

Other Notes: