

August 18, 2025
Oregon Health Authority
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232

RE: Letter of Support for OPHI Emergency Preparedness and Response Proposal

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO), I offer this letter of support for the Oregon Public Health Institute's (OPHI) proposal under OHA's Community Resilience: Emergency Preparedness and Response funding opportunity.

CLHO recognizes the importance of having statewide, equity-focused partners in Oregon's emergency preparedness and response ecosystem and ensuring they align with local efforts. As the statewide membership organization representing Oregon's 32 Local Public Health Authorities, CLHO supports efforts that strengthen infrastructure and foster collaboration between public health entities. OPHI's project is focused on clarifying how a nonprofit public health institute can complement and support Oregon's emergency response needs, particularly in coordination with LPHAs, CBOs, and the Oregon Health Authority.

CLHO supports the intention of OPHI's proposal to engage LPHAs through a statewide listening tour to identify system gaps and local needs; develop tools and recommendations that reflect the diverse contexts of local public health systems; ensure LPHAs have opportunities to review and provide input on project findings and deliverables; and serve as a supportive, non-duplicative partner that can offer aligned support in times of emergency.

CLHO will collaborate with OPHI in the following ways:

- Participating in OPHI's statewide listening tour and helping share key themes from the LPHA network.
- Connecting OPHI with LPHA leaders and other partners who can review draft recommendations and tools developed through the project, including those with implications for LPHA operations or coordination.
- Helping OPHI connect with LPHAs that are interested in contributing to the project, either through interviews, review, or future implementation alignment.

We support OPHI's effort to gather input from across the public health system—including CLHO and our members—as they define their future role in emergency preparedness and response. We appreciate OPHI's collaborative approach and look forward to continued dialogue.

Sincerely,

Sarah Lochner
Executive Director
Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials
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