DATE

Karen Girard, MPA

Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section Manager

Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Public Health Division

800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 730

Portland, OR 97232

Dear Ms. Girard:

On behalf of the Conference of Local Health Officials’ (CLHO), I am pleased to write a letter of support for the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Public Health Division (OHA-PHD) application to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the *Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), Organized Approaches to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening (CDC-RFA-DP15-1502).* CLHO is committed to supporting the work of OHA-PHD, local public health departments and Coordinated Care Organizations to increase colorectal cancer screening for the duration of the 5-Year grant (June 30, 2015-July 29, 2020). The project proposes to address the disparity gap of colorectal cancer (CRC) screening among Oregon’s Medicaid population, and the Hispanic Medicaid population, as a secondary target audience.

CLHO represents Oregon’s 34 local public health authorities and has the statutory obligation to set the standards for local public health services. CLHO provides a data-driven and evidence-based structure for an integrated approach to addressing the burden of chronic diseases. In Oregon counties, community leaders, partners, champions and advocates are already engaged in increasing self-management skills and engaging in health system transformation activities such as community health assessments and health improvement plans.

Oregon is proud of its local autonomy. The Cancer You Can Prevent small media initiative uses community and health care spokespersons that encourage others to get screened. The proposed CRC project in Year 1 with the three county InterCommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization (IHNCCO) has the potential lay the groundwork for expanding and strengthening partnerships between state and local public health, Coordinated Care Organizations and federally qualified health centers. CLHO is fully supportive of the project which brings together resources, to develop sustainable, quality colorectal cancer screening services among the Medicaid population. This population has a 39% lower CRC screening prevalence than the Oregon adult population (Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2013).

We have been a partner with the OHA-PHD for many years covering numerous public health issues, such as tobacco use, breast and cervical cancer screening and physical activity and nutrition standards. Working closely with OHA-PHD and IHNCCO, our organization will monitor implementation progress and evaluate outcomes of the small media initiative. In addition, CLHO will be engaged in the processes and decision making about project expansion beyond Year 1.

We will continue to collaborate with OHA-PHD to promote evidence-based interventions, implement project activities, participate in data reporting and evaluation activities, and support our mutual goal of health for all Oregonians.

Please contact me if I can provide additional information.

NAME, XX

AGENCY/ORG