

June 27, 2017

Public Health Modernization - \$5 million plan

- The public health assessment conducted by local health departments and the state Public Health Division found that one in four people in Oregon, or 1 million people, lives in an area that cannot fully identify, prevent and control a communicable disease outbreak.
- Oregon's public health system protects Oregonians from all kinds of diseases, such as:
 - Sexually transmitted infections, like gonorrhea and syphilis
 - HIV
 - Vaccine preventable diseases, like measles and whooping cough
 - Healthcare-acquired infections
 - Vector-borne illness, like West Nile Virus
 - Emerging diseases like Zika and Ebola
 - Common deadly illnesses such as foodborne illness and flu, and
 - Outbreaks such as meningococcal disease and cryptosporidiosis
- The Public Health Advisory Board identified communicable disease as a top priority for a modernized public health system in Oregon.
- A modern system will have critical infrastructure for communicable disease control rather than running programs targeting individual diseases.
- Available budget for public health modernization of \$5 million in the 2017-19 biennium will support initial development of a modern system, providing funding for regions of Oregon with most acute disease incidence to work upstream to prevent the spread of communicable diseases that are on the rise, instead of only responding.
- The public health system has a robust communicable disease tracking system that will facilitate learning from these initial efforts as it prepares statewide interventions in future biennia to address a wide range of public health issues.

- Focus efforts and drive work toward Communicable Disease accountability metrics set by the Public Health Advisory Board.

Special payments to local public health authorities - \$3,900,000

Funding will be provided to a few regions of local public health authorities working together to implement a modern communicable disease control system. This work will require expansion of current partnerships with hospitals, coordinated care organizations and other partners. Local public health authorities will be accountable to established statewide public health accountability metrics that will be reported annually.

Coordination of communicable disease control efforts - \$261,426

One position, the Chief Science Officer, will ensure a seamless system of communicable disease control efforts and support regions with the technical assistance needed to quickly identify, control and prevent communicable disease outbreaks. This position will utilize existing position authority within the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division.

Data reporting systems and accountability metrics - \$838,574

The Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division will need to maintain basic population health systems in order to deliver timely and accurate information for public health interventions. Specifically, this includes:

- Population health survey administration (\$588,574) – This includes partial funding for administration of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), the BRFSS race oversample, and the Oregon Healthy Teens surveys in order to report annual progress on the public health accountability measures. This includes the addition of new survey questions and ensuring that data are sufficiently available for local public health authorities to assess health risks, plan interventions, and evaluate progress.
- ALERT IIS Immunization Registry (\$250,000) – The purpose of this project is to enhance the infrastructure of ALERT IIS to meet the growing demand for immunization information systems and electronic health record (EHR) systems interoperability. Through bidirectional, real-time data exchange, providers have access to a consolidated immunization record for their patient at the point of care. Not only does the data flow from the EHR to ALERT IIS, but the consolidated record and forecast of immunizations due next will be presented back to the patient's record in the EHR. ALERT IIS allows for timely monitoring of flu vaccine uptake and tracking vaccination in response to outbreaks, capture of immunization rates by age and geographic area, and

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analysis of trends. This project increases the number of electronic, bidirectional interfaces between provider EHRs and ALERT IIS. The data from ALERT IIS will support reporting of the public health accountability and coordinated care organization incentive measures. This project is under review by the DAS OSCIO.