

Item 1: Department of Administrative Services /

Oregon Health Authority

Coronavirus Relief Fund for Contact Tracing and Testing

Analyst: Tom MacDonald

Request: Increase the Federal Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of Administrative Services initially established at the April 23, 2020 meeting of the Emergency Board by \$94,200,000, from funding made available to states through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to support the transfer of funding to the Oregon Health Authority. Establish a \$94,200,000 Other Funds expenditure limitation for funding from the CRF received by the Department of Administrative Services and transferred to the Oregon Health Authority for COVID-19 contact tracing, testing, education and outreach, case management, and supportive services.

Description: Two prominent and interrelated components of Oregon’s strategy for suppressing the transmission of COVID-19 and reopening the economy are testing enough people to identify new cases and tracing all of their potential contacts to mitigate the spread of the virus to anyone else. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has developed a strategic plan to increase testing across the state based on updated clinical testing guidelines and by expanding testing capacity at the Oregon State Public Health Lab (OSPHL) and partnering hospitals, private labs, pharmacies, stores, and mobile testing units according to regional needs.

Once a positive test result is received, a case investigator contacts the person who tested positive to collect basic demographic and health information and compile a list of everyone who may have come in contact with the sick person during the person’s contagious period. Contact tracers then check with these “contacts” daily for up to 14 days to see whether the contact starts having COVID-19 symptoms. If a contact develops symptoms, local, tribal, or state public health staff will facilitate testing for those individuals, which may involve coordinating sample collection submission to the testing laboratory.

The proposed \$94.2 million investment from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) represents a significant part of the funding currently available to support Oregon’s testing and contact tracing work. Of the total amount, \$20.7 million supports COVID-19 testing and related costs, primarily at the OSPHL. Costs include, but are not limited to, testing supplies, equipment purchases, and expenses associated with the ongoing collection, analysis, and interpretation of testing samples. The remaining \$73.5 million supports contact tracing, education and outreach, case management, and quarantine and isolation wraparound services through local, tribal, and community-based organizations according to the following plan:

- Local public health authorities (LPHA) - \$38.7 million
- Tribal communities - \$3.3 million
- Community-based organizations (CBO) - \$27.65 million
- Quarantine and isolation support services - \$3.85 million

OHA is leveraging existing contractual arrangements for funding allocated to LPHAs, Tribes, and CBOs; given the extensive number of participating CBOs, some may not have an existing contractual relationship with the agency. OHA is deploying \$27.6 million of the \$73.5 million on an upfront basis

given the urgency to suppress the number of COVID-19 cases; the remainder will be paid on a reimbursement basis. The agency has established revenue and expense reporting requirements for all subgrantees.

The \$94.2 million from the CRF does not represent the entire amount of funding planned to support testing and contact tracing. OHA has also received approval for \$95 million in supplemental Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through two separate federal allocations since April 2020. While the purpose of the ELC funding is broader, it will complement the testing and contact tracing activities identified as part of the \$94.2 million CRF request. An important consideration for each funding stream is the timeline for OHA's testing and contact tracing strategy. Payments from the CRF are available to support expenses incurred only through December 30, 2020. The ELC funding, on the other hand, is available for expenses over a 30-month period and will be used to continue supporting testing and a portion of the contact tracing activities once the CRF award expires.

Recommendation: The Co-Chairs of the Emergency Board recommend approval of increasing the Federal Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of Administrative Services initially established at the April 23, 2020 meeting of the Emergency Board by \$94,200,000 from funding made available to states through the Coronavirus Relief Fund to support the transfer of funding to the Oregon Health Authority. The Co-Chairs also recommend approval of establishing an Other Funds expenditure limitation of \$94,200,000 for the Oregon Health Authority for funding from the Coronavirus Relief Fund received by the department of Administrative Services and transferred to the Oregon Health Authority for COVID-19 contact tracing, testing, education and outreach, case management, and supportive services.