

Item 2: Department of Administrative Services /
Oregon Health Authority
Coronavirus Relief Fund for Racial Disparities Plan

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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 \$45,000,000, from funding made available to states through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to support the transfer of CRF to the Oregon Health Authority. Establish an Other Funds expenditure limitation of \$45,000,000 for the Oregon Health Authority for funding from the CRF received by the Department of Administrative Services and transferred to the Oregon Health Authority to address the social determinants of health contributing to the disproportionate impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on Oregon’s tribal communities and communities of color.

Description: Data from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) shows COVID-19 infection rates disproportionately impact Oregon’s tribal communities and communities of colors. The unequal health and economic impact the virus has on these communities is understood to be driven by the systemic health inequities these communities experience as a result of their social determinants of health. Key examples of social determinants of health include income inequality, unemployment, working conditions, food insecurity, housing, and other factors that contribute to a person’s health outcomes.

The requested Emergency Board action would provide \$45 million from the state’s distribution of federal Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) to provide foundational resources for these communities to address the social determinants of health contributing to the virus’s disparate outcomes. Based on initial input provided to OHA from Oregon’s tribes and community-based organizations, examples of investments to improve COVID-19 outcomes in these communities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Economic resources - thermometers, personal protective items, wrap-around support and services, childcare support, business consulting, and technology needs to improve access to telehealth and distance learning;
- Food insecurity and housing - food, bedding, transportation, home heating and cooling costs, and outdoor gear for situations of homelessness; and
- Safety and violence - emergency motel vouchers for people experiencing child abuse or domestic violence, culturally and linguistically appropriate services that address domestic violence, and social life skills programs for parents to address stress, depression, and self-care.

While these represent just some examples of likely investments, OHA intends for funding and allocation decisions to be determined in co-creation with stakeholders to appropriately identify the unique needs of each community and help ensure access to funding opportunities is equitable. Upon approval of the request, OHA plans to work with Oregon’s federally recognized tribes, community-based organizations (CBO), and non-profit and advocacy groups to develop a funding application process and accountability measures that satisfy federal CRF requirements. The agency has indicated it is able to use existing contracts and agreements with tribal communities and CBOs to help form the basis for the contracts used for this new one-time program.

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 \$45,000,000 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 \$45,000,000 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 to address the social determinants of health contributing to the disproportionate impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on Oregon’s tribal communities and communities of color.