

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

### **Item 14: Oregon Health Authority COVID-19 Federal Awards**

---

To: Ways and Means Full Committee  
From: Human Services Subcommittee  
Carrier: Representative Nosse

---

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means acknowledge receipt of a report on supplemental federal grant awards received by the Oregon Health Authority for COVID-19 response activities.

OHA's report identifies \$642 million in supplemental federal awards received since the start of the pandemic through multiple COVID-19 relief bills approved by Congress. All amounts in the report are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and primarily represent direct supplemental awards to existing programs. Over 75% of the increased awards is from the CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity program, which is OHA's main source of funding to support core pandemic response activities, such as disease surveillance, case investigation, quarantine services, and laboratory costs. Other important grant increases pay for vaccine delivery and emergency response efforts at the state and local levels

The extent to which the increased grant awards will support OHA's pandemic response activities through the 2021-23 biennium is currently unknown and will depend, in part, on FEMA reimbursements. The report also identifies several limitations with the allowable uses of available federal resources, including per person caps on vaccine incentives and prohibitions on using funds for childcare for people in quarantine and protection and crisis counseling services for public health employees.

OHA's budget will need an increase in Federal Funds expenditure limitation for the increased grant awards, which the agency plans to request ahead of the 2022 legislative session.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends approval.