

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 19: Oregon Health Authority COVID-19 Public Health Response

To: Emergency Board Full Committee
From: Human Services Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Nosse

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board allocate \$9 million General Fund from a special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board and increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$111 million for the Oregon Health Authority to continue responding to the COVID-19 pandemic through activities eligible for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

OHA's public health response to the pandemic has largely been funded with federal revenue, a significant portion of which has been from FEMA reimbursement without any cost-sharing requirements. In July 2022, FEMA began requiring a 10% match on eligible COVID-19 claims. The \$9 million General Fund allocation will enable OHA to meet this match requirement and continue supporting core pandemic response activities, such as vaccination events, wraparound services, outbreak response, and community outreach. Much of this work will be done through local public health authorities, community-based organizations, and OHA's Public Health Division.

The level of recommended funding is expected to support FEMA-eligible expenses into the early part of the 2023 legislative session. This incremental approach will allow the agency to provide a comprehensive understanding of its long-term strategy for funding public health services given the eventual phase-out of federal support. It will also allow for additional analysis of pandemic-related costs the agency has incurred that are not eligible for FEMA reimbursement.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.