

St. Johns All Nations Church Of God In Christ



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Hello Distinguished Committee Members:

My name is Clifford O. Chappell. I'm the President and Pastor of the St. Johns All Nations Church Of God In Christ (St. Johns). We are a community-based organization that serves primarily African American (and other ethnic) youths, adolescents, and adults in underserved and underrepresented areas in Portland. St. Johns has been the recipient of Heath Equity funding from OHA. Since receiving the funding our organization has been able to help youths and their families achieve success in the classroom and improve their overall health. We particularly served during the pandemic with getting support to some of the most vulnerable Oregonians and seeing them get tested and vaccinated. Thus, decreasing the number of acute and chronic illnesses that affect our communities at a disproportionately higher rate than others.

We are grateful that the current service level of funding and some additional funding was included in the Governor's proposed budget. The additional funding would allow our organization to increase our community reach and provide support services to many more community members as we seek to serve them.

We request the investment of \$286 million above the current service level for OHA Public Health Modernization Budget, which includes \$100 million for Community based Organizations. Supporting our work is what humanitarianism is all about. We have been the lifeline to Oregon's most vulnerable, most diverse, and marginalized populations across the state. We are a member of the Community Health Equity Coalition made up of more than 80 community-based organizations who are collectively responding to the public health needs of more than 500,000 Oregonians. This leveraging of community organizations and their people resources has been able to exponential increase the network of health support and equity across the state.

Sincerely,

Clifford O. Chappell

Clifford Chappell, DMin
President, Pastor