

Portland Black Community Develop Consortium
5257 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Suite 202F
Portland, Oregon 97211

March 22, 2023

Hello Distinguished Committee Members:

My name is Clifford O. Chappell. I'm the board President of the Portland Black Community Development Consortium (PBCDC). We are a community-based organization that serves youth, adolescents, and adults in underserved and underrepresented areas in Portland. PBCDC has been the recipient of Health Equity funding from OHA. Since receiving the funding our organization has been able to help youth and their families achieve success in the classroom and improve their overall health. Particularly, serving during the pandemic with getting some of the most vulnerable Oregonians vaccinated and tested. 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 twice as many community members as we serve.

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 exponentially increase the network of health support and equity across the state.

Sincerely,

Clifford O. Chappell

Clifford Chappell
President
PBCDC