



May 3, 2023

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

I am writing on behalf of Washington County Health and Human Services to ask the Joint Ways and Means Committee to appropriate funding to provide the non-federal match funding necessary for Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) programs to receive Medicaid reimbursement across the state.

NFP is an evidence-based community health program with 45 years of evidence showing significant improvement in the health and lives of first-time parents and their children facing economic and social barriers. NFP has operated in Oregon since 1999 and in Washington County since 2014.

NFP is a nurse home visiting program for first-time parents-to-be, starting early in the pregnancy and continuing through the child's second birthday. With the support of an NFP nurse, families experience better pregnancy outcomes, improved child health and development, and greater economic self-sufficiency. Parents, babies, families, and communities all benefit from the proven services of NFP.

NFP programs in Oregon rely on Medicaid to pay for their services to families, but Medicaid requires non-federal match funding which is currently being paid by county health departments. This funding arrangement creates a threat to the sustainability of NFP in counties implementing the program. This is a significant issue for Washington County as we continue to navigate budgetary challenges. Also, counties who cannot pay the match funding are unable to implement an NFP program, creating health inequities and disparate outcomes throughout Oregon.

Washington County Health and Human Services supports NFP's request for \$8 million from the General Fund to provide the non-federal Medicaid match for NFP programs. This funding would be appropriated to the Health Systems Division of the Oregon Health Authority. This will allow NFP programs in Oregon more certainty to provide services and would help NFP continue expanding to counties that do not have programs.

Thank you for your service to our state and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Mjere Simantel, MSW
Director, Department of Health and Human Services