



OREGON
HEALTH
AUTHORITY

Ways & Means Presentation Public Health

Presented to
Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Human Services
February 17, 2025

Naomi Adeline-Biggs, Director

Overview

- What is Public Health?
 - Overview
 - How the Public Health Division advances OHA's Strategic Plan
 - Organizational structure
 - Partnerships
- Key Successes
 - Primary impacts and outcomes
- Budget Overview
 - Budget drivers and major program changes
 - 2025-27 Governor's Budget request
 - 2025-27 Focus areas
- Policy Option Packages

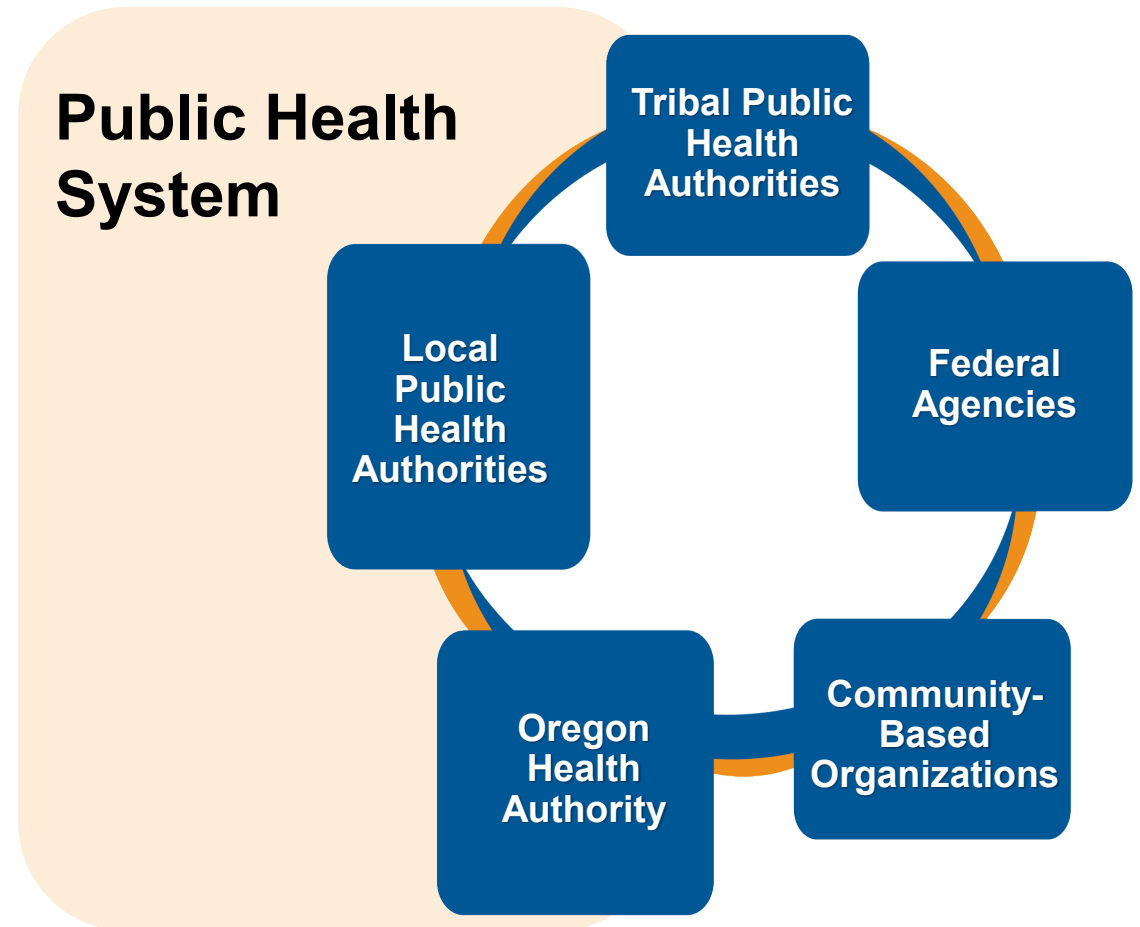


OREGON
HEALTH
AUTHORITY

What is Public Health?

Oregon's Public Health System

- Ensures every person in Oregon has the **same access to public health protections**.
- Prepares Oregon to respond to **public health issues that are increasingly complex** and growing rapidly.
- Builds **capacity for primary prevention** across public health programs.
- Provides sustainable funding and a public health workforce that is needed to **prepare and respond to public health crises**.



The Public Health Division supports every person in Oregon (1 of 2)

The Public Health Division works to achieve OHA's strategic goal to eliminate health inequities by 2030.

PHD does this by ***ensuring every person*** living in Oregon has access to basic public health services (ORS 431.001) which include:

- Preventing and controlling diseases
- Protecting health through regulatory monitoring and compliance
- Identifying risks and protecting people from harmful environmental exposures
- Increasing access to preventive health services
- Preventing and reducing harms from opioids and other drugs

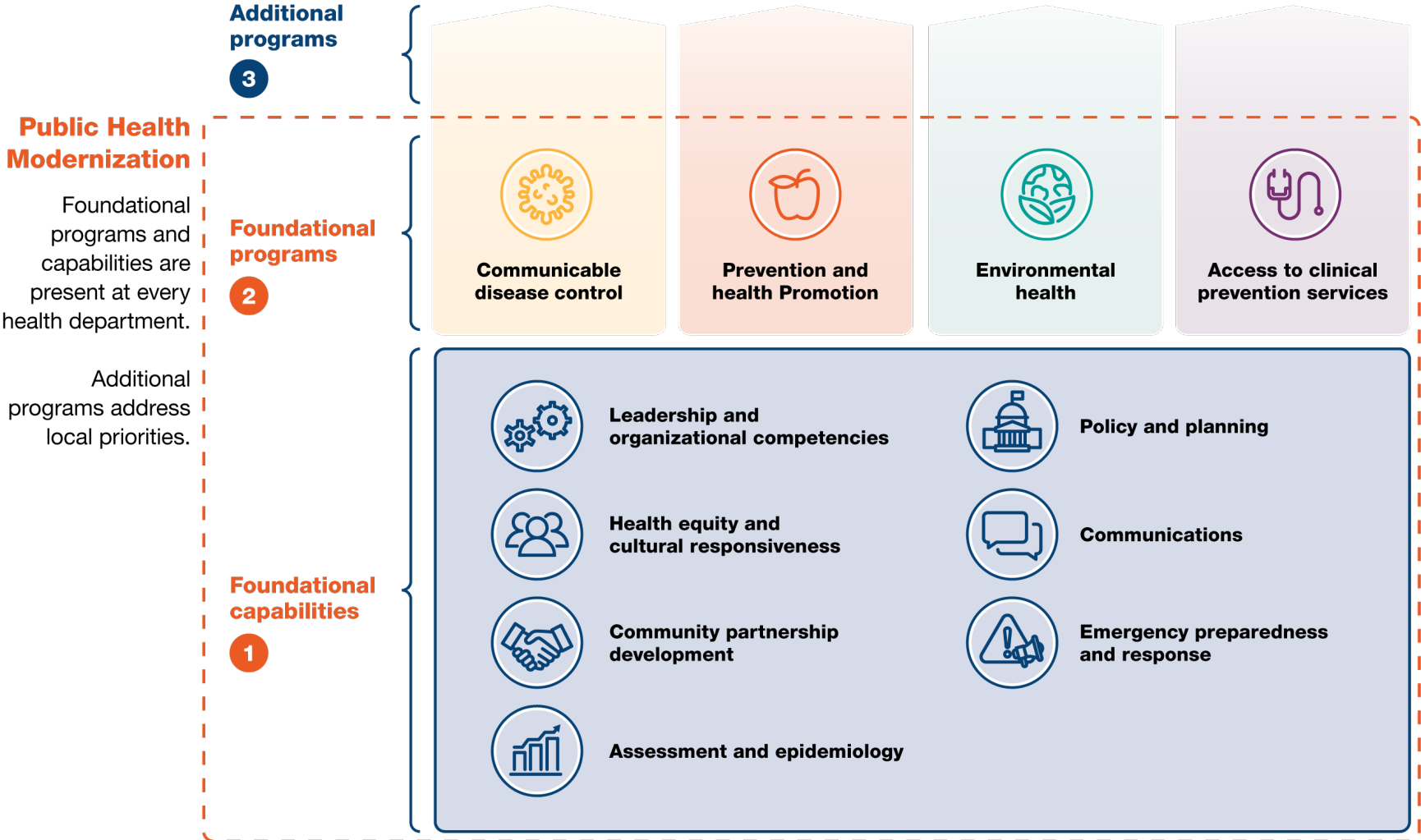
The Public Health Division supports every person in Oregon (2 of 2)

Mission: To advance policies, environments and systems that promote health and prevent and manage chronic diseases, including addiction.

Vision: All people in Oregon live, work, play and learn in communities that support health and optimal quality of life.



The strengths of a modern public health system



Program-based vs. Modern Public Health

Program-based Health System

Separate funding and staff for each disease or other health topic

Responds to health problems

Works independently

Health disparities unaddressed

Data systems are static, isolated from each other, and/or difficult to use

Patchwork quilt of programs and capabilities

Modern Public Health System

Funding and staff can **adapt and respond** as critical health needs emerge

Strives to **prevent and prepare** for health problems, then responds as needed

Emphasizes **partnerships**

Centers the **voices of communities** and strives to **shift power and resources** to those most affected by health inequities

Data systems are complete, dynamic, integrated and **accessible**, and **generate useful information**

All foundational programs and capabilities **available across the state**

OHA's Strategic Plan



Strategic Goal

Eliminate health inequities
in Oregon by 2030

Transforming
behavioral health

Strengthening
access to
affordable
care for all

Fostering healthy
families and
environments

Achieving
healthy Tribal
communities

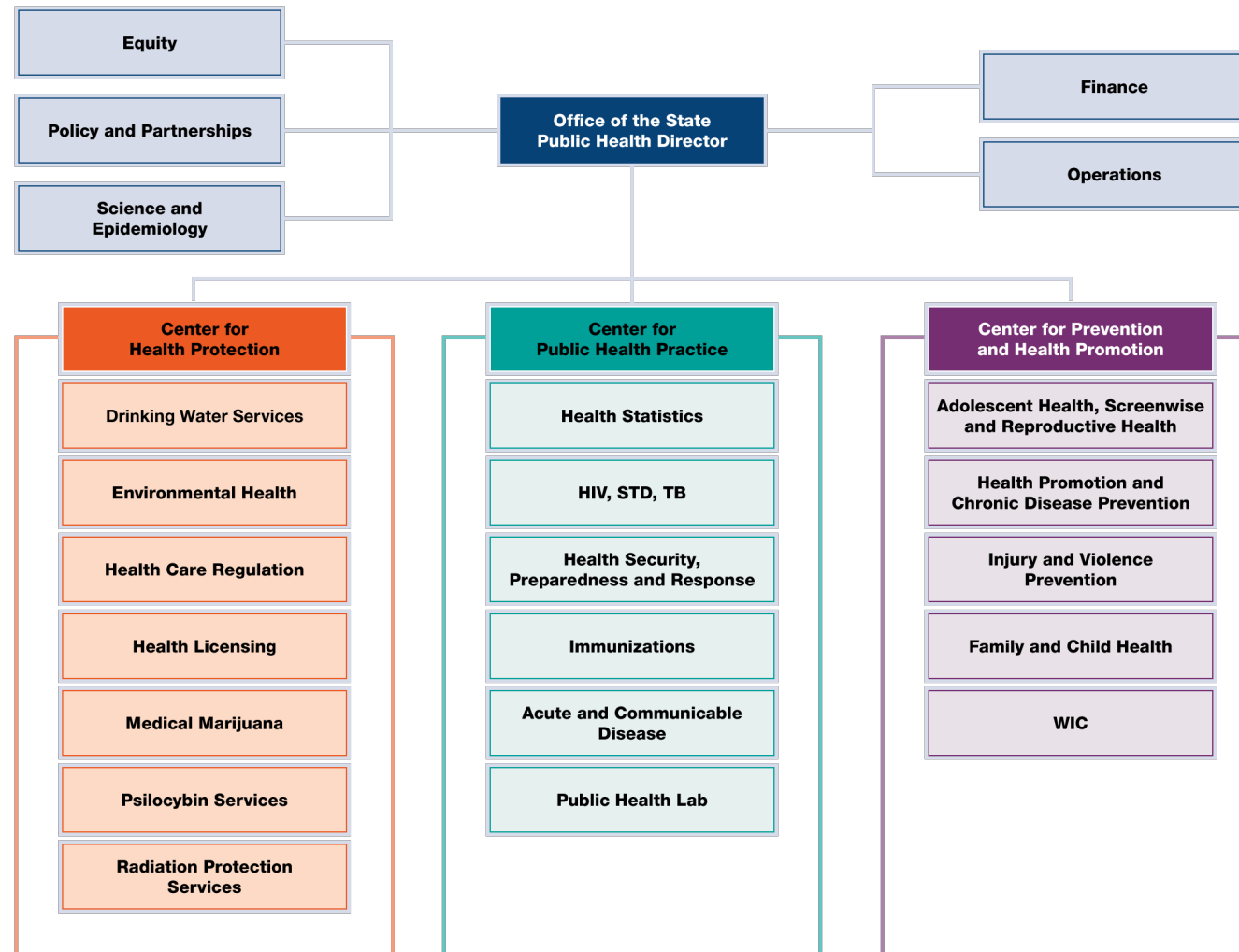
Building OHA's
internal capacity
and commitment
to eliminate
health inequities

Strategic Goal #3: Fostering Healthy Families and Environments

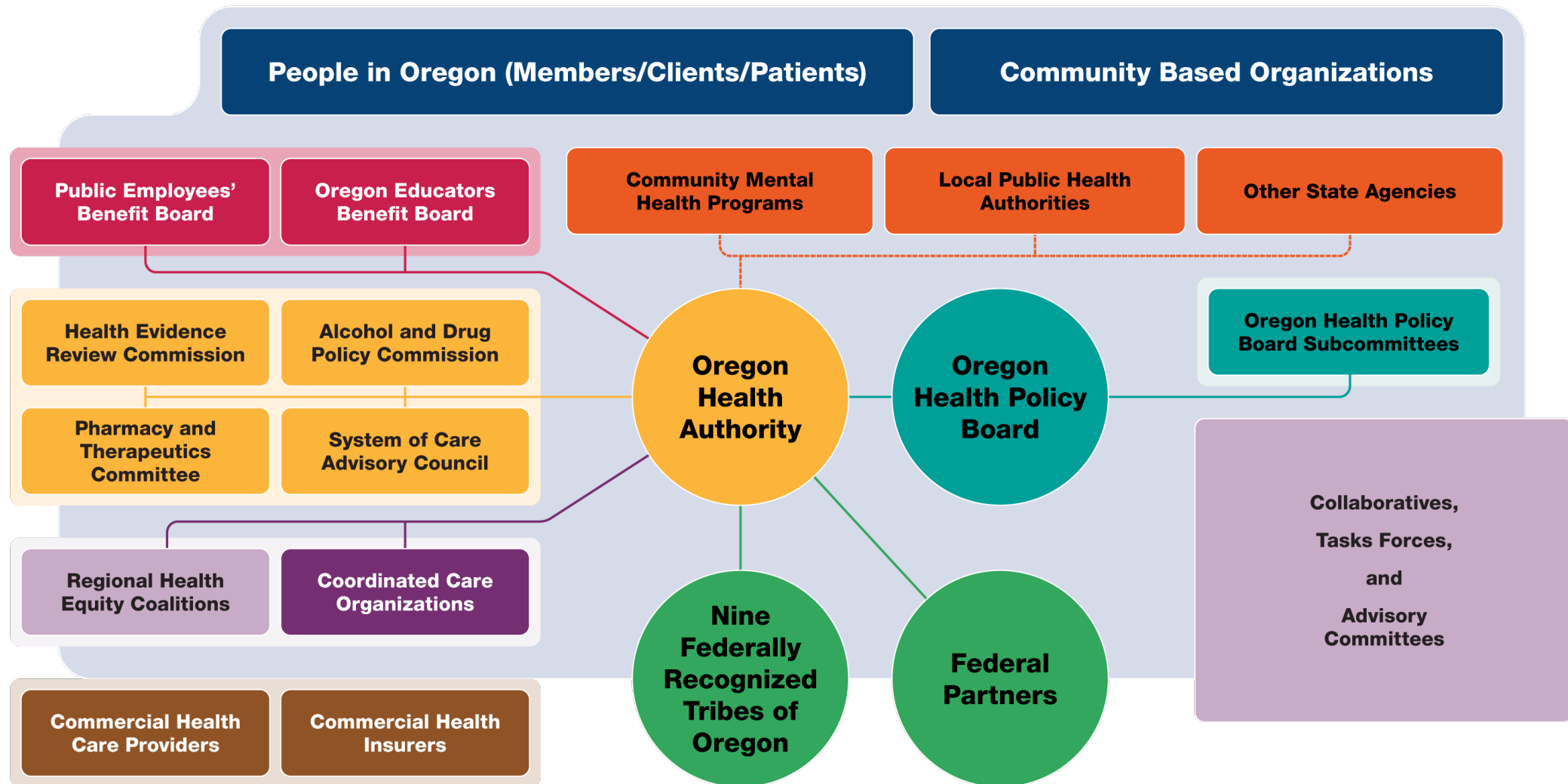
To support this goal, PHD will:

- Improve and standardize timeliness and accuracy of translated communications for prevention and public health emergency preparedness.
- Increase identification of and responses to climate health risks and improve the health of home environments.
- Expand access to health and social services resources and supports for children, parents and families.
- Expand innovative partnerships to recruit, retain and promote a diverse workforce to better meet the needs of communities.
- Expand access to vaccines, WIC Nutrition and Health Screening Program, and lead testing for children, parents and families.

Public Health Division's Organizational Structure



External Partnerships



Internal Partnerships that support people in Oregon

- Implement substance use and overdose prevention priorities with **Behavioral Health Division** to align prevention and treatment strategies and deliver a comprehensive approach to addressing substance use in Oregon.
- Improve the agency grant process for community-based partners through participation in the **OHA Contracting and Grants Workgroup**.
- Collect and analyze REALD-SOGI data in coordination with the **Equity and Inclusion Division** to better identify equity impacts of PHD programs and services.
- Diversify the workforce through recruitment and retention strategies designed with the **Equity Advancement Leadership Team, the Human Resource Center of Excellence**. A more diverse workforce will better meet the needs of Oregon's communities.



OREGON
HEALTH
AUTHORITY

Key Successes

Responding to contaminated drinking water wells in Morrow and Umatilla counties

- Families relying on domestic wells in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) are at elevated risk of exposure to high levels of nitrate in their drinking water.
- OHA partnered with CBOs to develop and provide bilingual and culturally-sensitive health messaging.

Measuring progress

- Identified 3,300 households at risk & tested ~1,900 households to date.
- PHD ensures households among the 40% of Morrow Co. and 22% Umatilla Co. wells above nitrate standard have access to alternative drinking water.
- Continued outreach to reach untested wells.

Strategic Plan Goal Area: Fostering healthy families and environments

Offering newborn home visiting nurse services to more Oregonian families: Family Connects Oregon

ORS 433.301, SB 526 (2019):

Directs OHA to design and implement a voluntary, universally offered statewide nurse home visiting program for newborns.

Family Connects Oregon (FCO):

Evidence-based approach that meets legislative mandate.

Strategic Plan Goal Area: Fostering healthy families and environments

Measuring progress

- Nearly 4,000 families have received an FCO home visit.
- ~ 40% of Oregon's population has access to FCO services;
- ~ 50% will have access by the end of 2025.
- 91% of families who responded to the FCO visit survey said they found the service helpful
- 86% would recommend the service to a friend or family member.

Modernizing Oregon's public health system

- Public Health Modernization (PHM) supports the modernization of Oregon's decentralized public health system to **address current and emerging threats**.
- **Most PHM funds go** out the door **to communities** through special payments to Local Public Health Authorities, Tribal Health Authorities and Community-Based Organizations in Oregon.

Measuring progress

- Established year 2030 targets with PHM partners to:
 - Reduce congenital syphilis in Oregon by 50%;
 - Reduce deaths from extreme heat by 70%, and;
 - Increase 2-year-old vaccination rates to 80%
- Supported 110 new positions in LPHAs and 99 in CBOs that address climate impacts on health and lead communicable disease prevention and control efforts
- 70% of modernization-funded CBOs work in languages other than English to ensure culturally-responsive programming

Strategic Plan Goal Area: Fostering healthy families and environments

Centering community strengths and wisdom to address health inequities

PHD recognizes the essential role of community-based organizations (CBOs) in community-driven and culturally and linguistically responsive public health services.

Funding CBOs supports OHA's strategic goal of eliminating health inequities.

Work relies upon building trusted relationships with CBOs and supporting their efforts to uplift community.

Measuring progress

- **Output:** 147 CBOs funded in 2022; 194 CBOs funded in 2024
- **Outcomes:** CBOs were resourced and supported in responding to emerging health priorities:
 - Mpox outreach and vaccination
 - Parent education on fentanyl use
 - Response to nitrates in well water

Strategic Plan Goal Area: Fostering healthy families and environments

Improving data systems to meet current public health challenges

"Data is the oxygen that powers our ability to detect and respond to threats to health and we are at a pivotal moment in the modernization of the public health infrastructure..."

Dr. Mandy Cohen, CDC director

Measuring progress:

- Increased system agility and accessibility of population data by updating PHD data systems. Data accessibility empowers individuals to have more agency in managing their health.
- More timely data for health care providers to inform important patient care decisions.
- Improved data transparency with public health dashboards that are easy for the public to understand.

Strategic Plan Goal Area: Building OHA's internal capacity and commitment to eliminate health inequities



OREGON
HEALTH
AUTHORITY

Budget Overview

2025-27 Major Budget Drivers

- Persistent health inequities with causes that are complex, cross-sector and mostly rooted outside of the health care system
 - These require preventive solutions that are community-led and collaborative.
- Alcohol and substance use
 - Oregon ranks as one of the states with the highest levels of alcohol and substance use requiring significant investments for resources and services.
- Climate adaptation
 - Investments needed to support environmental hazards, healthy homes, wildfires, extreme heat effects, and climate resiliency plans for LPHAs.
- Categorical federal funding
- Determining appropriate fees

2025-27 Major Budget Risks

- Core public health infrastructure sustainability
- Federal funding cliff
- Dependence on categorical federal funding and fees, which shifts based on leadership changes
- Emerging events and emergencies
- Decrease in federal funding for COVID-19 while work continues, resulting in an increased need for state funds

Major PHD Program Changes

Program changes occurring in the last three biennia

Additions:

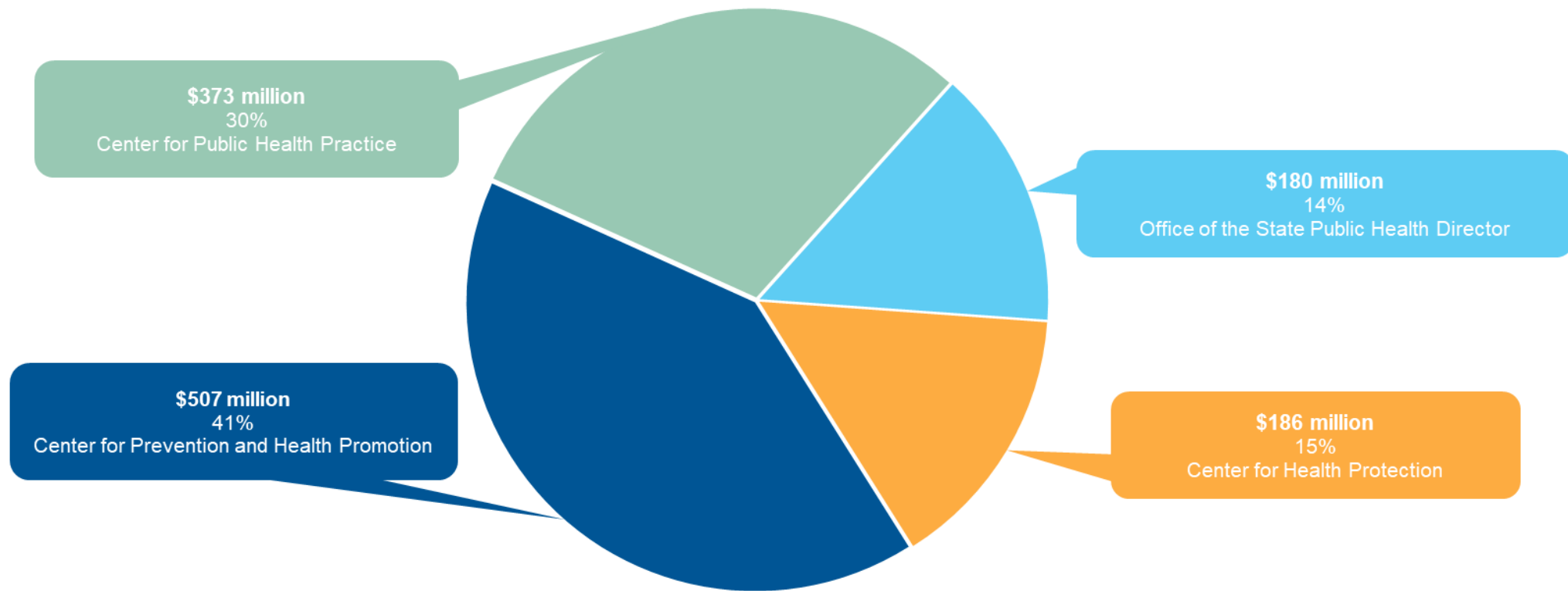
- Increase in permanent staff levels, in particular, to support modernizing the PH infrastructure
- Increased Categorical Funding
 - 21-23 Biennium – Community Engagement Team
 - 23-25 Biennium – Equity Office
 - Opioid settlement money
 - Healthy Homes
- Increase in Unfunded Work
 - Legislative requirements
 - Compliance work
 - Data modernization initiative

Reductions:

- Decrease in limited-duration staff, particularly staff that supported work for the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Decrease in available federal funds

2025-27 Governor's Budget, by Program Area

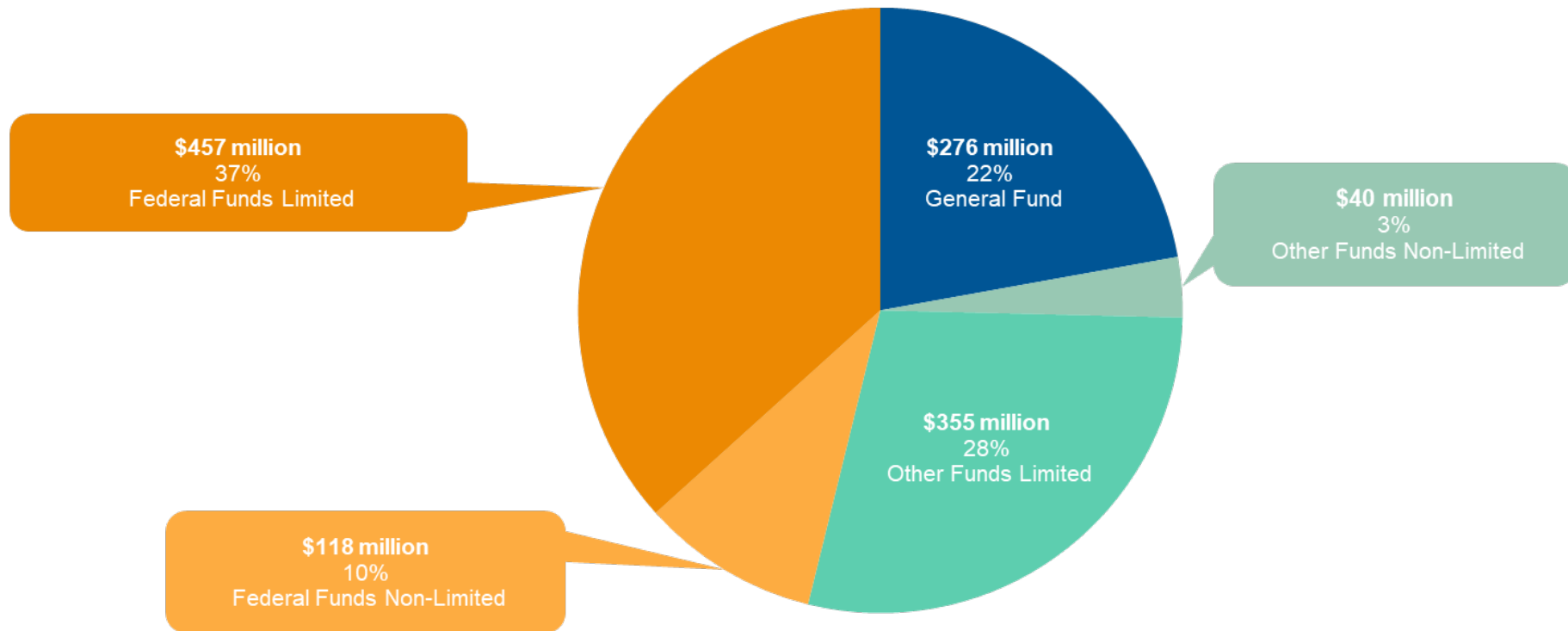
Public Health by Program
\$1,246 million Total Funds



Revenue Sources: Federal Grants, Cigarette/Tobacco Product Tax, Fees, Program Revenue

2025-27 Governor's Budget, by Fund Type

Public Health by Fund Type
\$1,246 million Total Funds



Revenue Sources: Federal Grants, Cigarette/Tobacco Product Tax, Fees, Program Revenue

2025-27 Governor's Budget Investments

- School and Community-Based Primary Prevention: \$7.0M GF, \$7.0M TF
- Reproductive Health – Emergency Reserve: \$2.5M GF, \$2.5M TF
- Seeding Justice – Reproductive Health Grant, \$2.5M GF, \$2.5M TF

2025-27 Focus Areas

- Sustain progress made with Public Health Modernization funding, ensuring programs meet public health needs of all Oregonians.
 - Maintain partnerships with Community-Based Organizations to achieve equitable health outcomes
 - Increase vaccination rates in children and adults to support community-wide protections
- Continue immediate public health interventions for nitrate-contaminated domestic well water in the LUBGWMA and expand capacity to respond.
- Update licensing fees to ensure patient safety and quality care in Oregon hospitals.
- Ensure equitable enforcement of commercial tobacco and reducing youth access to synthetic tobacco products.
- Maintain reproductive health access and expand access in areas that currently have less coverage.



OREGON
HEALTH
AUTHORITY

Priority Investments

POP #410 – Public Health Modernization

Challenges:

- Oregon communities face new and increasingly complex health threats, including in recent years, COVID-19, highly pathogenic avian influenza, measles, and mpox.
- Oregon’s public health system is under-resourced to prepare communities for current and new public health threats.

Proposal:

- Increase the ability of local partners to support vaccine clinics in critical settings, such as long-term care facilities.
- Enhance culturally-specific outreach to increase vaccination rates among 2-year-olds and communities who have access to fewer resources.
- Increase investments to federally recognized Tribes for traditional and modern approaches to communicable disease control

Desired outcomes:

By 2030:

- Increase 2-year-old vaccination rates from 68% to 80%.
- Increase adult influenza vaccination rates from 47% to 60%.

	General Fund	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
POP #410	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	0	0

POP #415 – Domestic Well Safety Program

Challenges:

- Continue to deliver immediate public health interventions for nitrate contaminated domestic well water in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA).
- Maintain ability to respond to increasing contaminated well events across rural Oregon.

Proposal:

- Fund positions necessary to manage safe water services for domestic well users in the LUBGWMA.
- Resource OHA to respond to other contaminated domestic well crises across rural Oregon with outreach and education to community members; partner with natural resource agencies; analyze public health risks.

Desired outcomes:

- OHA provides safe water services (education, outreach, testing and treatment for elevated nitrate in well water) to all residents of the LUBGWMA who depend on domestic wells for drinking and cooking.

	General Fund	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
POP #415	\$3,225,146	\$3,225,146	8	8.00

POP #426 – Ensuring High-Quality Care in Oregon Hospitals

Challenge:

- Program scope and costs have increased, while fee funding has remained flat for 15 years.
- Delayed complaint intake and investigation, resulting in increased risk to patient safety.
- Limited resources to support and guide licensees, complainants and community members.

Proposal:

- Maintain current service levels.
- Allow timely and full enforcement of new and existing regulations.
- Improve capacity to support licensees, complainants and the community.
- Projected total revenue for 2025-27 is \$1.7M, of those revenues \$1M will be expended in 2025-27.

Desired outcomes:

- Timely licensing surveys and investigations of increased patient safety incidents in hospitals.
- Provide outreach and technical assistance to hospitals on regulatory matters.

	General Fund	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
POP #426	\$0	\$999,997	6	6.00

POP #427 – Protecting Youth by Closing Tobacco Loopholes

Challenge:

- Regulation and taxation of emerging oral nicotine products is not consistent or comprehensive.
- Regulation loopholes put youth and young adults at risk for addiction and lifelong health problems.
- Oregon has two sets of tobacco control laws in place – one for businesses, and one for individuals. Consolidated language for OHA’s civil authority would make it clearer that businesses and the tobacco industry are accountable for violations.

Proposal:

- Regulate and tax tobacco products containing nicotine from any source.
- Close the face-to-face delivery loophole to ensure youth are unable to purchase tobacco products online and have them delivered.
- Clarify laws to prevent tobacco products and inhalant delivery systems from being prizes that youth can win in chance giveaway machines.
- Clarify laws to ensure equitable enforcement and removes individual criminal penalties.

Desired outcomes:

- Consistent, comprehensive and equitable regulation of tobacco products.
- Decreased access to harmful tobacco and nicotine products for youth.

	General Fund	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
POP #427	-\$8,400,000	\$900,000	0	0

Thank you

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact Matthew Green at matthew.green@oha.oregon.gov or 503-983-8257. We accept all relay calls.

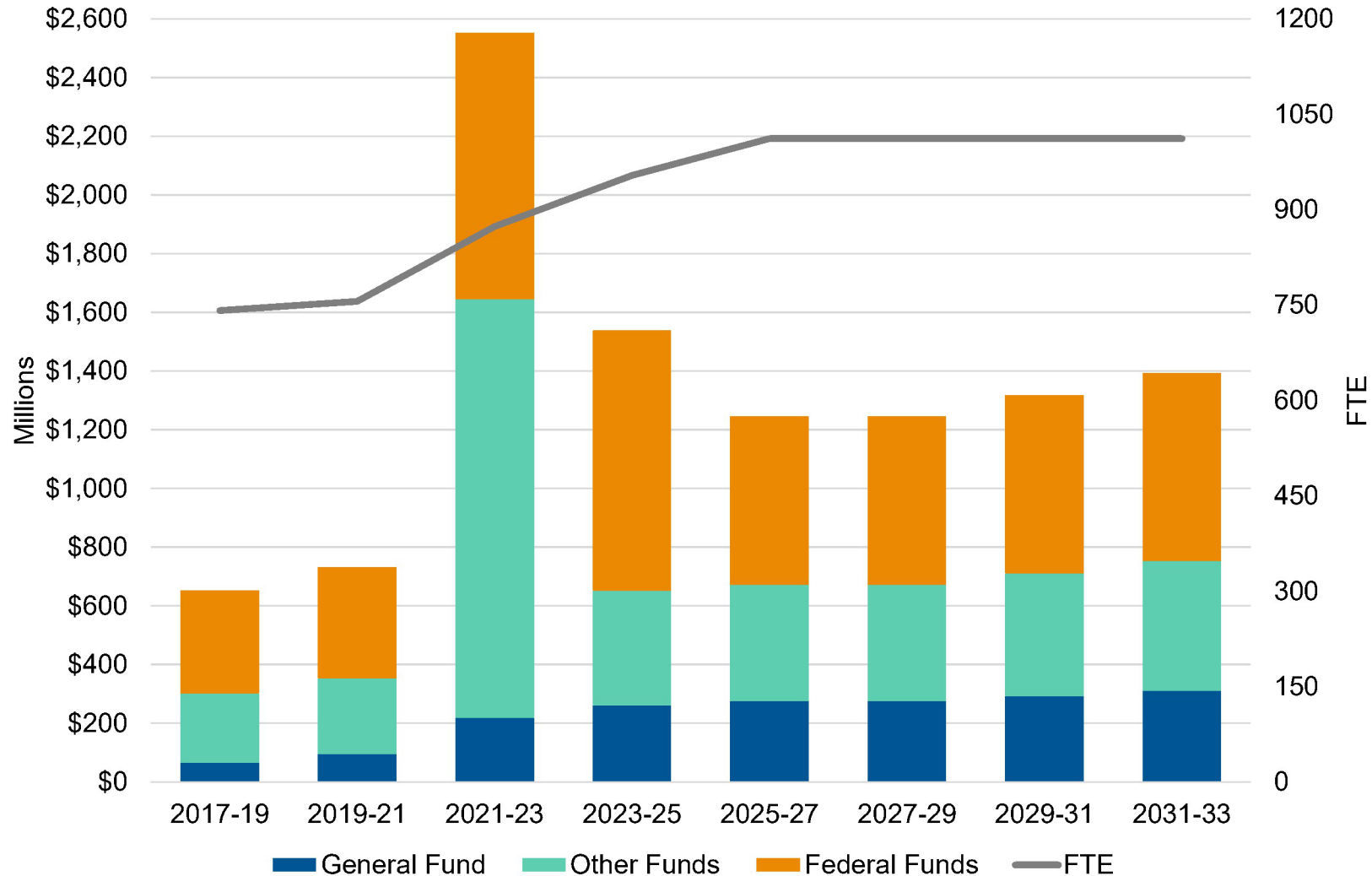




OREGON
HEALTH
AUTHORITY

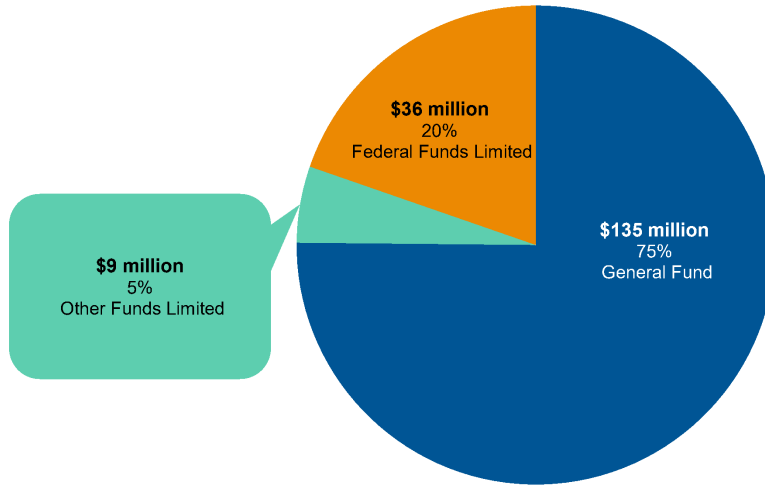
Appendix

Public Health Division Funding



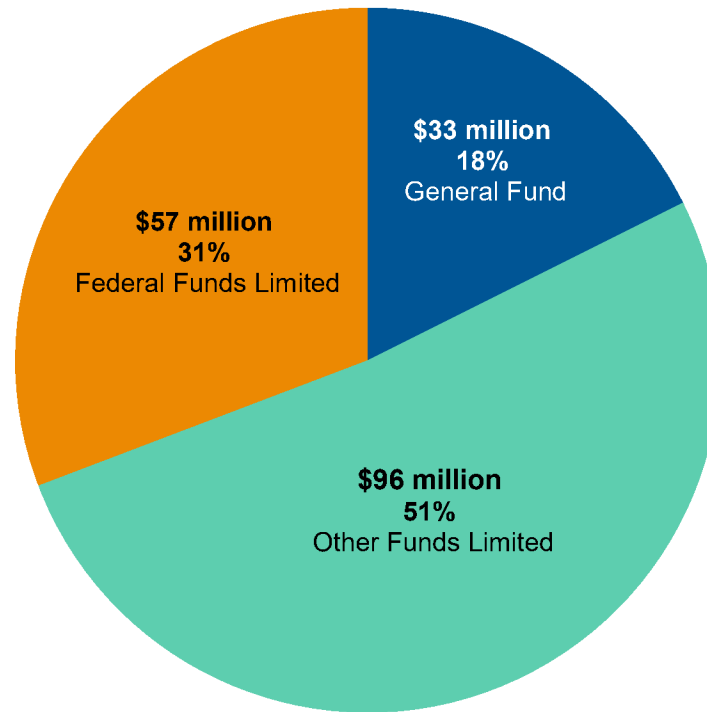
Office of the State Public Health Director, by Fund Type

Office of the State Public Health Director by Fund Type
\$180 million Total Funds



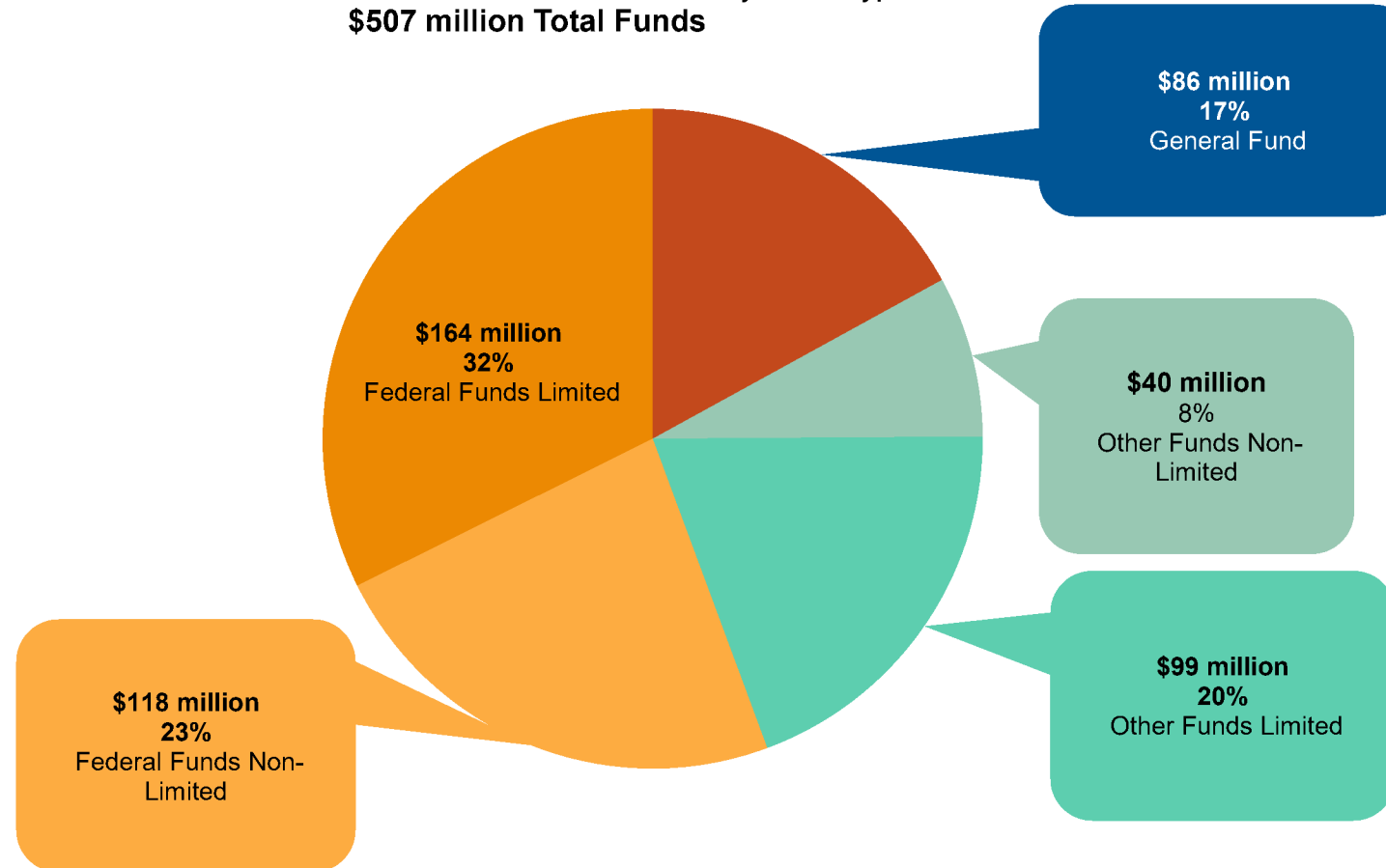
Center for Health Protection, by Fund Type

Center for Health Protection by Fund Type
\$186 million Total Funds



Center for Prevention & Health Promotion, by Fund Type

Center for Prevention & Health Promotion by Fund Type
\$507 million Total Funds



Center for Public Health Practice, by Fund Type

Center for Public Health Practice by Fund Type
\$373 million Total Funds

