

# PUBLIC HEALTH MODERNIZATION 2021

## Invest to protect all people in Oregon

*“Every resident of the state is entitled to the basic public health services that are necessary to preserve life and health.” ORS 431.001*

Oregon’s local public health system must lead the work of providing essential public health services, pursuing health equity, and eliminating racial disparities. Investing in **Public Health Modernization** will help realize this vision.

### Proposed phases for foundational programs



Oregon has been working to implement the Modernization Framework since 2015. The investments from 2017 and 2019 went towards **communicable disease control programs** and towards developing **health equity** and **epidemiology** capabilities. With the requested 2021 investment, Oregon plans to continue this work while also tackling **environmental health threats** and building **emergency preparedness and response** capabilities, as outlined above in Phase 1. Additional work includes:

- Tracking, investigating, and mitigating communicable diseases and other public health threats
- Centering health equity and cultural responsiveness in emergency response work
- Analyzing data to understand public health trends and to inform decision-making
- Informing the public about health problems in the community and how to stay safe
- Mobilizing community partners to collaborate on local public health challenges
- Reducing unhealthy environmental health exposures
- Developing and expanding the public health workforce to meet community needs

### 2021 Recommendation

Public Health Modernization is the framework that Oregon’s local public health workforce uses to guide their work in protecting the public’s health. The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials supports investing **\$68,875,348 during the 2021-2023 biennium** to fund Local Public Health Authorities, the OHA Public Health Division, Tribal Health Authorities, and Community-Based Organizations as they implement Public Health Modernization.



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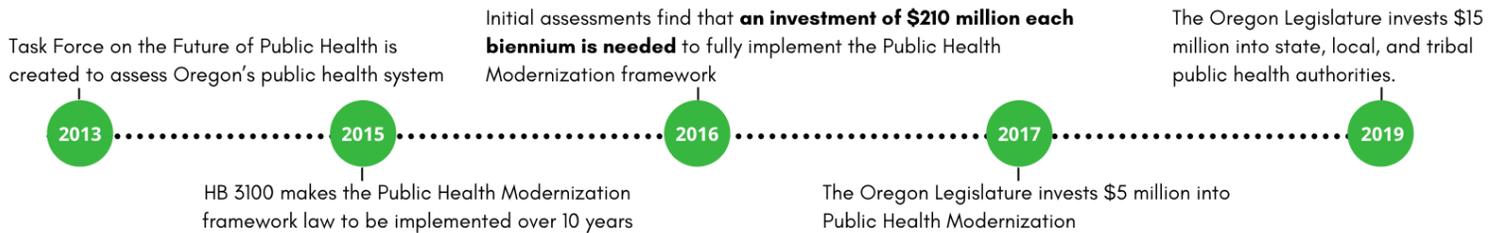
# 2021

### The Problem:

Oregonians are experiencing unprecedented health challenges and are facing the costs of a changing environment and emerging communicable diseases. Some groups, like lower-income families and communities that are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, are experiencing health disparities from these emerging threats. The current public health system lacks the resources to effectively address these mounting concerns.

### Significance of this Issue:

Public Health Modernization means everyone in Oregon can expect basic public protections that are critical to their health and the health of future generations. The first steps toward public health modernization began in 2013, and progress towards these goals continues today.



In alignment with the Public Health Modernization framework, the \$5 million investment in 2017 went towards communicable diseases, health equity, and epidemiology. LPHAs used this funding to implement local disease control projects, such as addressing rates of STIs, improving immunization rates, preventing outbreaks in Long-Term Care Facilities, and increasing cancer prevention. This work continued with the \$15 million investment in 2019. These funds were critical for supporting local public health officials on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local public health officials in Oregon have filled critical roles in the COVID-19 response, which led to disruptions in other important public health programs. Our public health officials need the Oregon Legislature's support so that they can continue protecting communities across the state.

### 2021 Legislative Request:

The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials supports an investment of **\$68,875,348** to support LPHAs, the OHA Public Health Division, Tribal Health Authorities, and Community Based Organizations. This investment will build critical capacity across Oregon to address health disparities and improve the public's health. These funds will support implementing the Public Health Modernization framework, specifically the Communicable Disease and Environmental Health programs, and will build the core capabilities of health equity, policy and planning, assessment and epidemiology, community partnership development, leadership, communications, and emergency preparedness and response.

#### References

1. Oregon Health Authority. (2016). *Statewide public health modernization plan*. Retrieved from <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/ABOUT/TASKFORCE/Documents/statewidemodernizationplan.pdf>
2. Oregon Public Health Advisory Board. (2016). *State of Oregon public health modernization assessment report*. Retrieved from <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/ABOUT/TASKFORCE/Documents/PHModernizationFullDetailedReport.pdf>



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