



Public Health Division

Office of the State Public Health Director

2026

Public Health Modernization Report to the Legislative Fiscal Office

Executive Summary

Oregon established a framework for achieving a modern public health system in 2015, called public health modernization (PH modernization). PH modernization ensures core governmental functions for improving population health within the following four foundational program areas: communicable disease control; environmental health; prevention and health promotion; and access to clinical preventive services. Early investments provided crucial infrastructure for Oregon’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, while more recent investments have supported local and Tribal planning for climate resilience, expanded partnerships with culturally specific community-based organizations (CBOs), and strengthened the public health system’s ability to address emerging and growing threats such as syphilis, measles, wildfire smoke, and extreme heat.

Highlights from July 2025-June 2026

OHA received a total of \$121.6 million in state General Fund for PH Modernization in the 2025-27 biennium. The majority of these funds reach Oregon communities through allocations to Local Public Health Authorities (LPHAs), the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon and the Urban Indian Health Program (UIHP), and CBOs.

- LPHAs funding supported more than 300 staff working across foundational capabilities and programs. Nearly all LPHAs completed climate and health adaptation plans, most completed all-hazards preparedness plans, and nearly all developed health equity plans to guide implementation of public health services.
- The Nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon and the UIHP chose to receive PH modernization funding. Investments supported public health infrastructure development, enhanced access to population-level data, emergency preparedness planning, climate resilience efforts, environmental health initiatives, and strengthened partnerships among Tribal communities, LPHAs, and state agencies.

- OHA concluded 137 PH modernization grant agreements with culturally specific CBOs in December 2025 and awarded a new cohort of 78 CBOs for the 2025–27 biennium. Funded CBOs in 2023–2025 served all 36 Oregon counties and 74% of CBOs provided culturally responsive programming in a language other than English.
- OHA maintained statewide public health infrastructure and expertise, including disease surveillance systems, population health data collection and reporting, climate and environmental health expertise, and regional epidemiology capacity.

2025–2027 Investments

Investments for the 2025–27 biennium remain level with those of the previous biennium after adjusting for inflation, resulting in maintenance of current service levels rather than expansion into additional program areas. The biennium provides an opportunity to reflect on implementation to date and identify priorities for the next phase of PH modernization.

- **Refreshing the shared vision.** OHA convened state, local, and community partners to revisit the purpose and future direction of modernization. The process resulted in a refreshed vision statement and opportunities for improvement. OHA and the Conference of Local Health Officials are now convening a workgroup to refine the modernization framework and manual to ensure they reflect the new shared vision.
- **Expanding accountability metrics.** OHA is convening state and local experts to develop accountability metrics for the prevention and health promotion foundational program, including health outcome indicators and policy measures.

Conclusion

Public health modernization investments have strengthened communicable disease control, environmental health, emergency preparedness, climate resilience, health equity planning, and community partnerships throughout the state. Despite this progress, Oregon faces stagnant and reducing federal, state and local investment in the programs on which people in Oregon rely and anticipates further negative impacts on health from disruptions to the federal Medicaid program. The progress achieved to date demonstrates the value of these investments and provides a strong foundation for future modernization efforts.

This document is the executive summary of the 2026 Public Health Modernization Report to the Legislative Fiscal Office. [The full report is available online.](#)

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