In 2016, state and local public health authorities completed an assessment of our existing public health system, as required under House Bill 3100. This assessment was intended to answer two questions: To what extent is the existing system able to meet the requirements of a modern public health system? What resources are needed to fully implement public health modernization?

**Gaps in current public health system**
The assessment found gaps between our current public health system and a fully modernized system that meets the health protection, prevention and promotion needs of Oregonians in every part of the state.

- In more than one third of Oregon communities, foundational public health programs are limited or minimal.
- Oregon ranks 31st in public health investment: Idaho spends $94.70 per capita on public health, and Oregon spends $26.60.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>State Per Capita Investment in Public Health</th>
<th>National Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>$94.70</td>
<td>7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>$58.20</td>
<td>10th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>$38.20</td>
<td>23rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>$26.60</td>
<td>31st</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Priorities for a modern system**
Based on findings from the public health modernization assessment, OHA recommends the following priorities for the 2017-19 biennium:

- **Communicable diseases.** Detect and respond to traditional and emerging infectious disease.
- **Environmental health.** Limiting environmental risks to human health.
- **Emergency preparedness.** Prepare for and respond to natural disasters and other catastrophic events.
- **Health equity.** Ensure that every state and local public health authority has the capacity to engage communities that experience an excess burden of disease.
- **Population health data.** Ensure that every state and local public health authority has access to timely, accurate and meaningful data needed to understand the health of the community and drive decision-making.
- **Public health modernization planning.** Ensure ongoing support to state and local public health authorities to identify strategies to build an equitable and efficient public health system while developing a workforce equipped to fulfill future needs.

In order to begin the first phase of public health modernization, Oregon would need a baseline investment of $30 million in the 2017-19 biennium.

This is the first step in funding a system that continues to evolve and modernize. This has been a tremendous collaborative effort across the 34 local health authorities, the public health division, and the Public Health Advisory Board. By committing to building a modern public health system, we demonstrate our commitment to ensuring that a healthy life is within reach for everyone in Oregon.