## Healthy Communities Program Update

HPCDP anticipated releasing a three-year, competitive RFP for Healthy Communities (Program Element 15 Counties and Program Element 14 Tribes) to begin in July, 2015. Due to funding constraints and evolving funding discussions between OHA and CLHO, HPCDP will delay the release of a competitive Healthy Communities RFP for at least a year. Instead, current Healthy Communities grantees will have the opportunity to request a one year extension of their current grant. This approach was discussed with and approved by CLHO Healthy Communities Committee on March 5, 2015 and with CLHO on March 19, 2015.

## Why is this decision being made?

* At this time, HPCDP is unable to ensure funding will be available to grantees for the next three years of the proposed Healthy Communities grant. Funding sources for Healthy Communities come from a variety of CDC grants all of which have reduced their funding levels. Many of these grants have also shifted in focus from community-based interventions to clinical and health systems interventions. While Healthy Communities grantees do work to strengthen community/clinical linkages, the majority of the focus has been on creating communities where Oregonians can eat better, move more and live tobacco free.
* In previous conversations with CLHO about the funding mechanism and the number of grants available, CLHO members expressed a preference for stability over the course of the grant. This is particularly important as relationships are developed that will eventually result in policy, systems and environmental changes. For this reason, a three-year funding cycle was identified as optimal for Healthy Communities.
* This approach was presented to CLHO HC in their March 2015 meeting. The committee endorsed this decision given the current funding situation and the context of larger discussions of funding and infrastructure currently occurring through the OHA/CLHO Joint Funding Task Force.

## What are the benefits of this approach?

* By extending the current grants for an additional year, HPCDP, local grantees and community partners can take time to examine current resources and determine the best way forward together.
* Over the next twelve months HPCDP will work to identify opportunities to leverage non-CDC funding sources, (ex. Oregon Healthiest State, Kaiser Permanente, OHSU, etc.) other PHD resources, and continue to share with all partners the importance of place-based changes that support health in our communities.
* Future Healthy Communities opportunities will be shaped with the consideration of the work of the Future of Public Health Task Force and the OHA/CLHO Joint Funding Task Force.
* The Healthy Communities planning team, along with managers, did consider opening the three-year funding opportunity to a more limited number of grantees. However, as demonstrated by work in tobacco prevention, there are advantages to having multiple communities working collectively toward common goals. The Healthy Communities program was built with this in mind – sharing success and spurring further innovation among a cohort. By extending current grants for an additional year, we can continue to support this cohort while simultaneously working to secure the resources to do so into the future.

## Current public health climate

Oregon lacks sustainable, local funding sources for public health. Such resources are critical to support Oregon priorities and address the things that matter most to Oregonians. Health system and public health transformation efforts create an opportunity for making these needs visible.

The Healthy Communities program will transform. During this year of continuation funding, HPCDP will work to secure resources and consider innovative approaches to continue this work and share it across Oregon. Diverse participation in these discussions is imperative as we consider how to make healthy equity and healthy communities a priority for all Oregonians, especially those experiencing disparities. .

## What this means for currently funded grantees:

HPCDP will release a request for a non-competitive continuation application for the July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 period. The primary focus will be continuing the current initiatives to reach goals set over the previous three years. The opportunity will also encourage continued focus on maintaining relationships and on seeking opportunities for sustainability through other funding sources and the establishment of policy. To sustain funding to all currently funded grantees, award amounts will be **reduced by 10%.**

## What this means for Tribes and Counties not currently funded

HPCDP will encourage all Counties, Tribes, CCOs and partners to participate in learning opportunities and facilitated conversations about reducing the burden of chronic disease through prevention, early detection and self-management. We recognize that for those organizations with limited resources and staff time, change is challenging to pursue. However, HPCDP is committed to building interest and expertise among all partners so that when opportunities for leadership and sustainability arise, local partners are prepared.

During the coming year, HPCDP will make special efforts to work with funded Healthy Communities Grantees to share what they have learned and accomplished so that all communities across Oregon can have information that will help their efforts be as effective as possible.