

Health Services Temporary Staffing of COVID-19 Response and Recovery Efforts Request for American Rescue Plan Funds

Health Services is requesting \$2 million from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds be earmarked to support temporary staffing of key COVID response and recovery efforts. There is currently no identified funding source in Health Services, and as such, it is diverting funds originally approved by the Board and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) that are intended to support foundational positions within the department.

Health Services hopes to have a response from the Board regarding additional funds for temporary staff and contractors by September 1, 2021, which is prior to the first OHA financial report. This will avoid a potential misalignment to the pre-approved expenditure plan and a reduction to the COVID response and recovery efforts. These funds will ensure continued department capacity in order to ensure high standards around containment, school vaccine rollout, Call Center and community outreach, and an ability to scale-up response in the likely event of increased cases, especially due to the Delta variant.

Allocating \$2 million of ARPA funds will allow for a staggered phased-down approach through June 30, 2023 as follows:

- Operate at current capacity through September 30, 2021 (3 months);
- Reduce to 75% from October to December 2021 (3 months);
- Reduce to 50% from January to June 2022 (6 months); and
- Reduce to 25% from June 2022 to June 2023 (1 year).

At minimum, Health Services requests six months (approximately \$700,000) of funds for temporary staffing.

Temporary staffing for COVID response and recovery include:

- **Wraparound Service:** Case Managers provide wraparound services (e.g., food, housing, etc.) for isolated and quarantined individuals, which is a required function;
- **Containment:** Highly trained staff support community testing, process test results, investigate and trace, and manage outbreaks;
- **Community Outreach / Education:** staff provide vaccine access support for vulnerable and marginalized populations (funding is already identified through December 2021);
- **Call Center:** staff act as the resource hub that connects the public to contact tracers, wraparound services, vaccine information, responsible COVID-19 care, testing, and other vital information.
- **School Vaccine Rollout and Booster Doses:** staff required to support vaccine roll out the likely event of an emergency use authorization for vaccine for children under 12 as well as and booster doses.