



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** March 9, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of Central Oregon Health Council grant award acceptance

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** (two motions)

1. Board approval of Document #2022-222, a Central Oregon Health Council Grant and
2. Board Signature of Order #2022-013, designating signing authority to Rita Bacho

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Although many children, by age 2, have received the vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a significant proportion in some communities have not. The percentage of two-year-olds in Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson County who were up to date for immunizations was 75%, 71% and 66% respectively (according to the Oregon Health Authority Immunization Program data from 2020). These percentages are well below the Regional Health Improvement Plan goal of 80%, and the CDC's estimation of the immunity levels required to prevent disease from spreading in a community, which is 80 to 94 percent depending on the disease. Additionally, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties immunization rates have decreased through the course of COVID-19 pandemic.

The Central Oregon Regional Childhood Immunization Rate Quality Improvement Project's goal is to increase childhood vaccination rates in Central Oregon. The project proposal includes hiring a Public Health Nurse II for three years. The role of the position will be to serve as the Immunization Quality Improvement Coordinator working with AFIX-Based IQIP programs in the tri-county (Jefferson, Crook and Deschutes Counties) area, as well as in the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Northern Klamath County, (limited to Gilcrest, Chemult, Crescent and Crescent Lake Junction). AFIX (Assessments, Feedback, Incentives and eXchange) is a program that was established by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC). IQIP (Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers) is the updated version of the AFIX program that is supported by the CDC and the State of Oregon.

Additionally, a major focus of this project will be equity and serving prioritized populations. The project will seek to reach out to clinics that serve clients who are vaccine-hesitant, children and families who are experiencing houselessness, live in rural communities, those who identify as Black/African American, Native American, Latinx, or another minority group, and children who are migrant or receive support from the foster care system.

Central Oregon Health Council (COHC) has awarded funding in the amount of \$419,428 to fund the Central Oregon Regional Childhood Immunization Rate Quality Improvement Project, a Regional Health Improvement Plan (RHIP) project proposed by Deschutes County Public Health Division. A resolution for the Public Health Nurse II position is forthcoming. Recruitment will begin once approved, with a start date not likely before July 2022.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:** Revenue in the amount of \$419,428

**ATTENDANCE:**

Rita Bacho, Public Health Manager