

Governor's Proposed Budget

On November 28th, 2018, Governor Brown released her recommended 2019-2021 budget, totaling \$23.6 billion. The Governor's recommended budget is an important step in the legislative process as it serves as a starting point for discussion and consideration for our State Legislators, ultimately leading to a legislatively adopted budget.

The public health highlights within in Governor Brown's recommended budget include:

- **Tobacco Cessation** - Increasing the cost of cigarettes by \$2 per pack and establishing a tax (65% of wholesale) on vaping products and investing those funds in supporting tobacco prevention, the Oregon Health Plan, and Public Health Modernization.
- **Universal Home Visiting** - \$8.7 million investment to "complement existing home visiting services by helping families enter into their community system of care". Four million of this investment is general fund.
- **Suicide Prevention** - \$13.1 million investment "to implement the early intervention priorities outlined in the Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan, support mental health services in schools, help communities in crisis and develop a comprehensive adult suicide prevention plan".
- **Public Health Modernization** - "remains a top priority and the Governor builds on the existing \$5 million modernization budget with an additional \$13.6 million in the 2019-21 biennium. A modern public health system ensures foundation public health protections are in place for every person in Oregon, the public health system is prepared to address emerging health threats, and eliminates health disparities"
- **Continued Support for Public Health** - \$5.5 million invested in "maintaining support for county public health authorities by backfilling decreasing "Other Funds revenue" with General Fund. This is the State Support for Public Health (SSPH) that funds core communicable disease funding through program element 1.

Statewide Public Health Priorities

- **Modernization**- The original policy option put forth from the Oregon Health Authority requested up to \$47.7 million a biennium. The Governor's budget request is based on tobacco tax and would not be available to public health for 1 ½ years into the biennium.
- **Tobacco Cessation** - Support governor's proposal.
- **Fee Structure Change for Drinking Water** - Increase water system fees to adequately fund state and local drinking water programs to build capacity to regulate all public water systems equitably, ensure protection of public health and maintain the public's trust in the safety of public drinking water supplies.

- **State-wide Drug Take Back** - Supportive of Rep Malstrom's drug take back legislation. Proposed legislation will develop an Extended Producer Responsibility Law that mandates medication disposal programs funded by prescription drug manufacturers. Not all pharmacies would be required to participate but there would need to be adequate coverage/access across the county which could include mail in programs. Washington County commissioners are also supportive of development of a local ordinance if the State legislation is not successful.