



Addressing health inequity at the community level

A lot of things outside of the medical system affect our health, from our genes and exercise habits to housing and access to fresh foods. Unfortunately, current and historic racism in our systems means that many people don't have equal access to important resources that could help keep them healthy—like green space, job opportunities, and transportation. That can lead to differences in health outcomes among people and populations, called health inequities.

In 2020, Governor Brown announced a goal for Oregon to eliminate health inequities by 2030. To help reach this goal, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3353, which requires CCOs to:

- spend more money on programs and services that improve health equity, *and*
- be more accountable to the people they serve.

Meanwhile, Oregon has generated significant savings compared to other states through our CCO model. Rather than have these savings only benefit the federal and state budgets, this proposal would ensure investment into the community in ways that promote health equity.

Proposed strategies to invest savings in communities

Community Investment Collaboratives

To help solve health inequities, Oregon needs to give power and resources to communities. One way to do this is by funding new Community Investment Collaboratives (CICs). CICs will decide which problems are a priority to address and how funding will be spent to reduce health inequities. For example, some communities might choose to focus on climate change, making sure that OHP members have access to temperature-controlled shelter during extreme heat events, while others may fund evacuation resources for wildfires. Other communities might focus on improving mental health supports or providing affordable childcare.

“And who better to say what’s needed in the community than the community?”

-OHA Strategic Plan community input

Focus on equity

Oregon is working to eliminate health inequities by 2030. To help reach this goal, CICs will focus on people and communities who have been most harmed by historic and contemporary injustices and health inequities, including but not limited to:

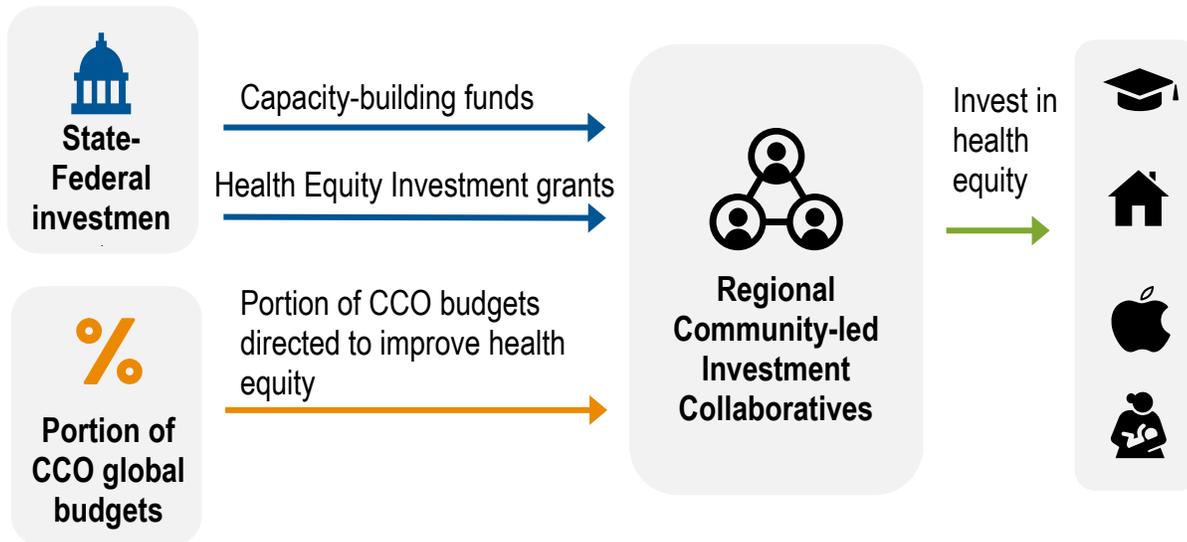
- Oregon’s nine federally recognized tribes and Tribal communities;
- Latino/a/x communities
- Black/African American communities
- Asian communities

- Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native populations,
- other communities of color;
- people with disabilities;
- people with limited English proficiency; and
- immigrants and refugee communities

How Oregon will pay for Community Investment Collaborative investments

Community Investment Collaboratives will have two main sources of income:

1. **State-federal investments:** This money will come directly from the state to help pay for CIC projects.
2. **CCO budget:** If the federal government gives permission, CCOs will be required to spend a certain percentage of their budget in support of CICs



As CICs become established, they will also qualify for funding for ongoing administrative and operational expenses, focused technical assistance, and grants called “health equity investments” to further improve health equity in their communities

What will this mean for OHP members

OHP members and other members of the public who come from groups that have been most harmed by historic and contemporary injustices and racism will experience improved health as a result of community-led health equity investments. OHP members will see community engagement in decision-making about the investment of resources, the aim of which is community empowerment, improved health and ultimately the elimination of health inequities. Also, OHP members, or community-based organizations that represent them, will participate in designing a process for establishing Community Investment Collaboratives in the state.

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact the Community Partner Outreach Program at community.outreach@dhsosha.state.or.us or by calling 1-833-647-3678. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.