

Name	Organization
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Goal

Every community member has access to the resources and underlying conditions that promote health and well-being.

Description

Climate change exacerbates health inequities, disproportionately impacting at-risk communities. Our commitment is to universal access to the resources essential for health and well-being, regardless of background or location. This includes clean water, nutritious food, safe and healthy housing, quality healthcare, mental health support, and green spaces, utilizing technology to bridge gaps and address diverse climate-related health challenges.

Climate change is happening in Multnomah County, threatening our access to clean air, clean water and healthy food. In the Portland region, communities of color and low-income communities already experience poorer health and disparities. Climate change will make health disparities worse and is considered a “risk multiplier,” which means it has the potential for worsening many other public health issues.

Metrics	Notes
Public health accountability metrics are one way that Oregon’s public health system demonstrates and ensures it is improving health, eliminating inequities and effectively using public dollars through a modern public health system. Tracking health outcomes based on extreme temperatures, air quality, harmful algal bloom advisories and vector-borne diseases are ways we can measure impact.	
The Regional Climate and Health Monitoring Report provides data on 11 health indicators including heat-related illness, extreme weather-related deaths, air quality-related respiratory illness, pollen allergy-related emergency department visits, vector-borne diseases, communicable diseases, and mental health, spanning 2012-2022. The report also explores the differences in populations seeking urgent and emergency care due to extreme heat and air pollution, and highlights mental health impacts during acute climate events.	
Mental health service usage and stress levels in vulnerable communities.	
Access to health care facilities, both quantitatively (number/distance) and qualitatively (community experiences)	

Strategies	Description
Increase funding, training, and support for those serving people experiencing homelessness <i>Type of action: Create/fund program</i>	Dedicated Climate and Homelessness Funds: funds to support houseless people relocations from climate-vulnerable areas and building of climate-resilient housing. Cross-Sector Collaboration Training: encourage training programs that promote collaboration between homelessness service providers, climate scientists and emergency management personnel. Enhanced Data Collection and Sharing: develop comprehensive data collection and sharing systems to track climate-related impacts on homelessness and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.

De-stigmatize mental health care, shifting narratives and culture around climate anxiety through “Climate Cafe’s,” healing circles and somatic work; incorporate culturally relevant practices and address climate-related traumas <i>Type of action: Create/fund program</i>	Promote mental well-being and resilience in the face of climate change by destigmatizing mental health care, fostering community support, and providing culturally relevant and trauma-informed approaches to healing. Launch a countywide public awareness campaign to normalize conversations about climate anxiety. Fund the establishment of “climate cafe’s” and healing circles that provide opportunities for collective processing of climate-related grief, anxiety and trauma, as well as skill-building workshops on coping mechanisms, stress reduction and resilience. Integrate culturally relevant practices such as storytelling, traditional healing modalities and nature-based therapies.
Health literacy education campaign to access resources and preventative care <i>Type of action: Create/fund program</i>	Empower individuals and communities to make informed decisions about their health and well-being in the face of climate change by improving climate health literacy and facilitating access to resources and preventative care. Implement a comprehensive Climate Health Literacy Campaign that: • Explains the health impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events, air pollution, waterborne diseases and mental health effects. • Simplifies scientific information and terminology related to climate and health. • Raises awareness about preventative measures, preparedness strategies and available resources. • Promotes community resilience and adaptation to climate change.
Support training of healthcare professionals about climate interventions and technology to support Medicaid patients <i>Type of action: Advocacy</i>	Support healthcare professionals serving Medicaid patients with the knowledge and skills to integrate climate change considerations into their practice, leverage relevant technologies and promote equitable access to climate-resilient healthcare.
Collaborate with healthcare institutions and coordinated care organizations to provide climate-smart technologies and support with other interventions <i>Type of action: Create/fund program</i>	Foster partnerships between healthcare institutions, coordinated care organizations (CCOs) and relevant stakeholders to implement climate-smart technologies and interventions, promoting health equity and resilience in the face of climate change. Establish a formal framework for collaboration between healthcare institutions, CCOs, public health agencies, environmental organizations and technology providers. Create a dedicated task force or advisory committee to guide the initiative and facilitate coordination.
Prepare and retrofit hospitals to upgrade for climate emergencies, including air filters, batteries, and other technologies and resources <i>Type of action: Create/fund program</i>	Enhance the preparedness and resilience of hospitals and healthcare facilities to withstand and respond effectively to climate emergencies, ensuring the continuity of essential healthcare services and protecting the health and safety of patients, staff and communities.
Long-term distribution of PPE supplies to prevent disease <i>Type of action: Create/fund program</i>	Climate change is exacerbating existing health challenges and creating new threats, including the increased risk of respiratory illnesses from wildfire smoke, vector-borne diseases and waterborne illnesses due to flooding and contamination. This policy commits to establishing a sustainable and equitable system for long-term distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure adequate access for all residents, especially at-risk populations and frontline workers, in the face of these evolving challenges.

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