



## **Task Force on the Future of Public Health Services: *Recommendations to Modernize Oregon's Public Health System***

**WHAT:** The Task Force on Future of Public Health Services was created by House Bill 2348 (2013) with the directive of providing recommendations for the future of public health in Oregon that:

- Create a public health system for the future.
- Explore the creation of regional structures.
- Enhance efficiency and effectiveness of public health services.
- Promote partnerships with local health care providers and community organizations.
- Consider cultural and historical appropriateness.
- Are supported by best practices.

**WHY:** With the advent of health care transformation there is increased awareness about the need to address health issues before they begin – to focus on prevention of illness. The role of public health is to promote interventions for the entire population that are prevention focused. These interventions address the underlying causes of death and disease. Preventing disease before it happens will result in significant cost savings to the health care delivery system.

The current situation for public health in Oregon is inhibiting the ability of public health agencies to achieve a population-wide focus on prevention. Some of the issues are:

- Large disparity in level of county funding resulting in limited capacity in many areas
- A focus on individual service delivery at the cost of providing community wide interventions
- Reliance on Federal categorical funding which dictates what programs need to be provided, regardless of community need
- Limited state funding for foundational public health capacities and programs

**HOW:** To address these problems and establish a modern Public Health System in Oregon, the Task Force made the following recommendations:

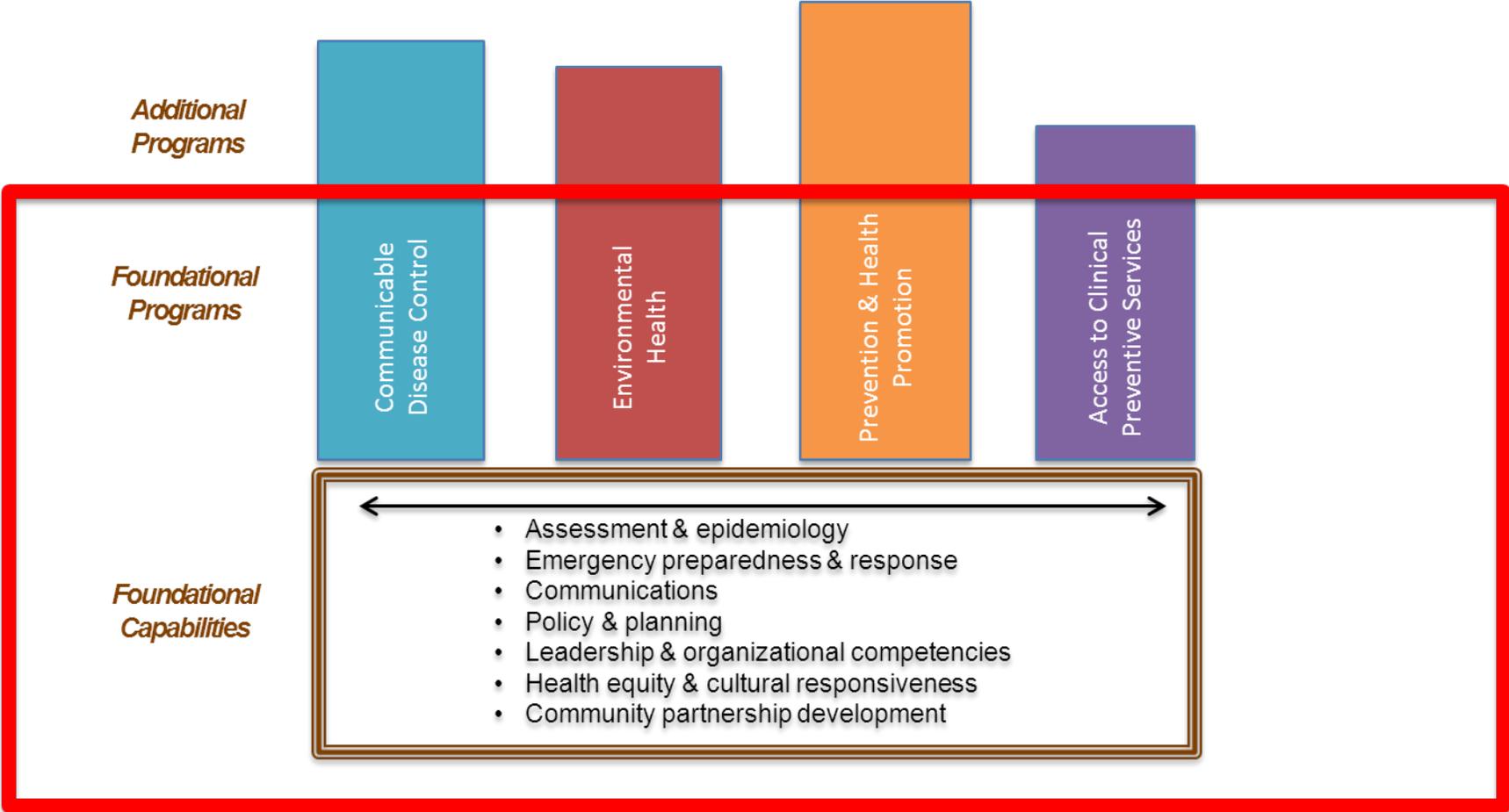
- A defined set of Foundational Capabilities & Programs be adopted in all public health agencies in order for the public health system to function efficiently and effectively.
- Significant and sustained state funding for the governmental public health system be identified and allocated for proper operationalization of the Foundational Capabilities and Programs.
- Statewide implementation of the Foundational Capabilities & Programs occur in waves.
- Local jurisdictions will have flexibility when operationalizing Foundational Capabilities & Programs.
- Improvements and changes in the governmental public health system be structured around state and local metrics. These metrics will be established and evaluated by the Public Health Advisory Board, which will report to the Oregon Health Policy Board.

**Implementation of these recommendations** will result in:

- Better integration of governmental public health with a transforming health care system.
- Improved coordination and clarity of roles between local and state.
- Basic public health assurances in place for everyone in Oregon.

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Complete Task Force details can be found at: [healthoregon.org/taskforce](http://healthoregon.org/taskforce)

# Conceptual Framework for Governmental Public Health Services



□ = Present @ every Health Dept.