

January 5, 2022

Health Policy and Analytics Medicaid Waiver Renewal Team
Attn: Michelle Hatfield

RE: 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Renewal Comments

Dear Oregon Health Authority:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Renewal. The Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon is a culturally specific organization serving our state's fast growing Asian and Pacific Islander communities. This waiver renewal application, as proposed, would have significant benefits for health equity for all communities. This waiver is a recognition that health begins with strong community and social ties, and builds out into where we live, work and play. There are several critical elements of the proposed waiver important to APANO to keep:

A requirement that CCOs invest at least 33% of the 3% of their global budgets with community investment collaboratives with flexible authority to invest in health equity

APANO has seen where community-led investments and partnerships between healthcare and community development organizations has led to improved health and better housing. We have seen where actions to build leadership and counter displacement have created better outcomes for our community. Healthcare investments in affordable housing and community gardens in Portland's Jade District have made a significant impact.

Authority for expenditures on population health and climate supports

Oregon's Waiver Renewal is explicit about the health risks posed by climate change and events such as fire and extreme heat. APANO has seen these effects in Portland's Jade district where extreme heat has harmed the health of elders and others in our community. This past summer our elder's spent heat days at a nearby Wal-mart. If our community had access to Medicaid funds for community greening and cooling, we could reduce these health risks. This flexible "glue" will help braid services, preventative investments, and disaster response into a more cohesive, effective, and efficient approach to building health so that everyone has the opportunity to thrive—no exceptions.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment! This waiver is exactly what community groups like APANO have asked for for a long time.



Sincerely,

Duncan Hwang
Interim Co Executive Director
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon