



## Joint Statement of Support PODER Health Equity Collective

Our coalition of Latino focused health care providers and community benefit organizations has the following goals:

- Improve the trust Latino people feel in accessing government funded services
- Communicating effectively with Oregon's Spanish speaking population
- Improving health equity and outcomes for Latinos in Oregon

### **“Nothing about us without us”**

It is time for Latino organizations to transition from being advisors to decision makers. As a community Latinos have the expertise and leadership to meet our goals. The most effective way for us to do that is from a position of leadership.

The PODER Community Health Council is a statewide collaboration.  
Our membership includes:

PODER  
Familias en Accion  
Oregon Latino Health Council

(Growing list of partners)

## Draft Sign-on Letter:

Dear Chair \_\_\_\_\_ and members of the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee,

We the undersigned leaders of the Latino community respectfully urge your consideration of a funding the following funding request that will dramatically improve access to health care and social services for Oregon's Latino community.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) they contract with struggle to engage Oregon's Latino population, provide critical health access and improve equity measures. When we created CCOs based on geographic populations rather than demographic populations policy makers committed to a path that was transformational in aggregate, however, it continues to come up short for the Latino population.

As leaders in the Latino community, we do appreciate the frequency that we have been invited to participate in the work of the OHA, CCOs, health care providers and health systems. We have Oregon's health influencers have good intentions.

Despite good intention serious concerns remain:

- The need to improve trust between government programs, health systems and the Latino community
- The need to improve communication both in the media, direct communications and in person communication thought networks
- The need for health care providers to adopt best practices for culturally specific care
- The need to strengthen networks between health systems, CBOs, culturally specific groups, and the Latino community
- The need to address specific access issue in dental, mental health, and some specialty care

The current power dynamic has structural flaws. We take seriously the philosophy of "nothing about us without us". The Latino community are invited to advise and sometimes contract with OHA or CCOs. However, actual prioritization and funding decisions reside outside our community. The staff time of our leadership is

disproportionately used as a resource to assist the people with actual decision-making power. This is not moving us closer to equity in health care culture or outcomes.

### **Solution:**

As the advocates for Oregon's Latino population, we have formed a Community Health Council charged with overcoming the structural barriers we are encountering. PODER CHC should be ready to accept contracts from OHA and willing CCOs by 2024. Latino culturally specific providers, CBOs, advocacy organizations and member-leaders are ready to embrace the work of the CHC model supporting a Latino specific Clinical Advisory Panel and Community Advisory Council.

We are requesting a budget allocation of \$1,700,000 to cover our start-up costs for 18 months between from July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2024.