

Polk County Public Health is dedicated to strengthening organizational capacity to apply the Public Health Modernization foundational capabilities and implement the foundational programs outlined in ORS 431.413. We are actively addressing capacities through the following priorities identified in our strategic plan:

- **Bolstering communicable disease surveillance and response-**

We are strengthening existing capacity for analysis and reporting of communicable disease data. By allocating resources for data collection and reporting, we established a data team who produced the first annual Polk CD Report. This will allow us to provide our partners with transparent and accessible data to best serve our community together.

- **Health equity and cultural responsiveness-**

We are committed to fostering health equity and cultural responsiveness across all programs. To ensure we understood the current gaps and challenges we face, PCHS conducted a health equity assessment, incorporating Public Health, Administrative team, Development & Disability Services and Behavioral Health Services. With the findings of this assessment, we will develop and implement a Health Services health equity plan.

- **Communication-**

In our ever changing world of technology and innovation we have a unique opportunity to provide our communities with public health information they can trust to inform their personal choice. Polk County Health Services is conducting an external communication assessment in order to assess our capacity, identify gaps, and use the findings to create a communication plan.

Through strengthening data capability, health equity and communications we will produce health outcomes that will support our community to thrive and be healthy.

Public health is *“the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private communities, and individuals.”* — CEA Winslow

Updated March 2024