

RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW

It is clear that Oregon is well positioned to begin the process of closing the health disparities gaps that continue to impact racial and ethnic communities in Oregon. This report represents a major step along the path. Success will depend on state government, communities and policy makers acting as a catalyst for change. The recommendations address the need for change on three different fronts; making better use of existing resources, changing policy directions and finding new resources to address important issues.

In the process of developing recommendations in the six priority areas, it was clear that several "cross-cutting" issues were seen as overarching issues. As a result, the report has two sections. The first section is a set of recommendations relating to the "cross-cutting" issues. The second section represents recommendations in each of the six priority areas assigned to the Task Force in the Executive Order.

The matrix used to present the Task Force Recommendations is intended to provide complete information and serve as a summary of several months of work and interactions with community, providers and policy makers. Additional information on the meetings and presentations that led to this report are included in the Appendix. The following is an explanation of the information contained on the matrix:

First Column: "Action Items"

These initiatives or action items are being recommended by the Task Force for the Governor's consideration. The format has been designed to present a menu of choices for follow-up action by Governor Kitzhaber. It is envisioned that the Governor will select his priorities from the Action Items offered as recommendations. Once selected for implementation, the State agency, department or division designated as the "lead" (see "Responsible" description below) will develop an implementation plan.

Second Set of Columns: "Policy - Budget - Legislation"

Each "Action Item" has been marked to designate whether the full implementation of the concept will require state government to: make policy changes; introduce new legislation or finance with new budget resources.

Third Column: "Responsible"

The first agency, department or division listed in this column and designated as "lead" is identified as the one responsible for facilitating development of the recommended action if approved by the Governor. This box also lists any other state departments, divisions, or offices needing to be involved in the planning and implementation process. The listing does not include other government agencies, private sector or community partners at this point. However, they will be added if the initiative is selected for further concept development.