



## Oregon Office of Rural Health

Oregon Health & Science University  
3030 SW Moody Ave, Suite 200  
Portland OR 97201-4868  
tel 503 494-4450 | fax 503 494-4798  
toll free 866 674-4376  
[www.ohsu.edu/orh](http://www.ohsu.edu/orh)

April 20, 2021

*RE: The National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control – OSTLTS*

Dear Grant Committee,

As the fight against COVID-19 continues across the globe, we must continue an active conversation about strengthening the public health infrastructure in Oregon and across the United States. The COVID-19 Pandemic has shined a spotlight on our nation's public health system.

Across most health outcomes, socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic disparities persist. Tackling these issues requires a robust, well-resourced local government and public health system focused on prevention, preparedness, and wellness.

The Town of Lakeview has long needed to tackle improving the water quality for the residents and users of the water system. Current high levels of iron and manganese cause poor tasting, off-color water that produces plumbing fixture aesthetic issues and can leave the impression the water is not safe to consume. It is a health concern and costly to maintain our community and Lake Health District clear water for food processing, laundry, and equipment replacements. **In addition, arsenic is in the Town's north well is a health concern as it exceeds the regulatory maximum contaminant levels.**

As a rural community, we need your help to build a water treatment facility. We require \$15,000,000 to build the facility to filter out the iron and manganese, to eradicate the north well arsenic levels to provide clean drinking and usable water for the Town.

Today, the Town of Lakeview, its local public health agency, and the Oregon Office of Rural Health demonstrate community-supported importance to urgently improve Lakeview's water infrastructure to supply the users and community usable, clean water.

The Oregon Office of Rural Health strongly supports the efforts of the Town of Lakeview to build a water treatment facility for the good of the community and urges CDC's approval for their grant application.

Sincerely,

Robert Duehmig  
Interim -Director  
Oregon Office of Rural Health

