



2024 YEAR-END REPORT

OREGON OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

IMPROVING THE QUALITY, AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF HEALTH CARE FOR RURAL OREGONIANS

OREGON OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

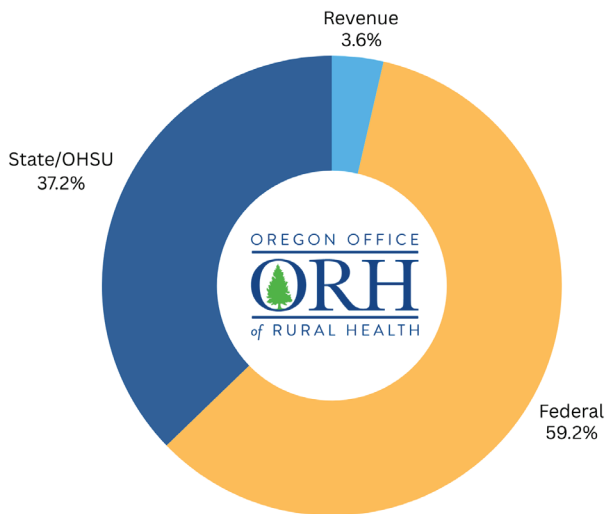
THE OREGON OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH (ORH) has been the focal point for rural and frontier/remote health in Oregon since 1979. Supported by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), the state of Oregon and Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), ORH offers assistance to hospitals, clinics, EMS and communities to strengthen the rural and frontier/remote health care delivery system.

SERVICES

ORH offers provider recruitment and retention services, provider incentive programs, data and analysis about frontier/remote health, technical assistance, policy development, advocacy and information services.

FUNDING

ORH is funded through the support of multiple federal grants, the state general fund, OHSU and various partnerships. Federal grants include the State Office of Rural Health (SORH) Grant and the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Grant provided through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).



State/OHSU	\$1,348,047
Federal	\$2,365,761
Revenue	\$130,786

MISSION

To improve the quality, availability and accessibility of health care for rural Oregonians.

VISION

To serve as a state leader in providing resources, developing innovative strategies and cultivating collaborative partnerships to support Oregon rural communities in achieving optimal health and well-being.



State/OHSU Support	\$1,348,074
Federal Grants	\$2,365,761
SORH	\$223,410
Flex	\$803,488
SLRP	\$481,080
SHIP	\$346,112
HRSA Rural Public Health	\$511,671
Workforce Training Network Grant	

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

4.2 MILLION

State Population
33% rural
2% frontier/remote
(Oregon Census Bureau 2020)

25

Critical Access
Hospitals

37

Rural and
Frontier/Remote
Hospitals

108

Rural Health
Clinics

32

FQHCs

116

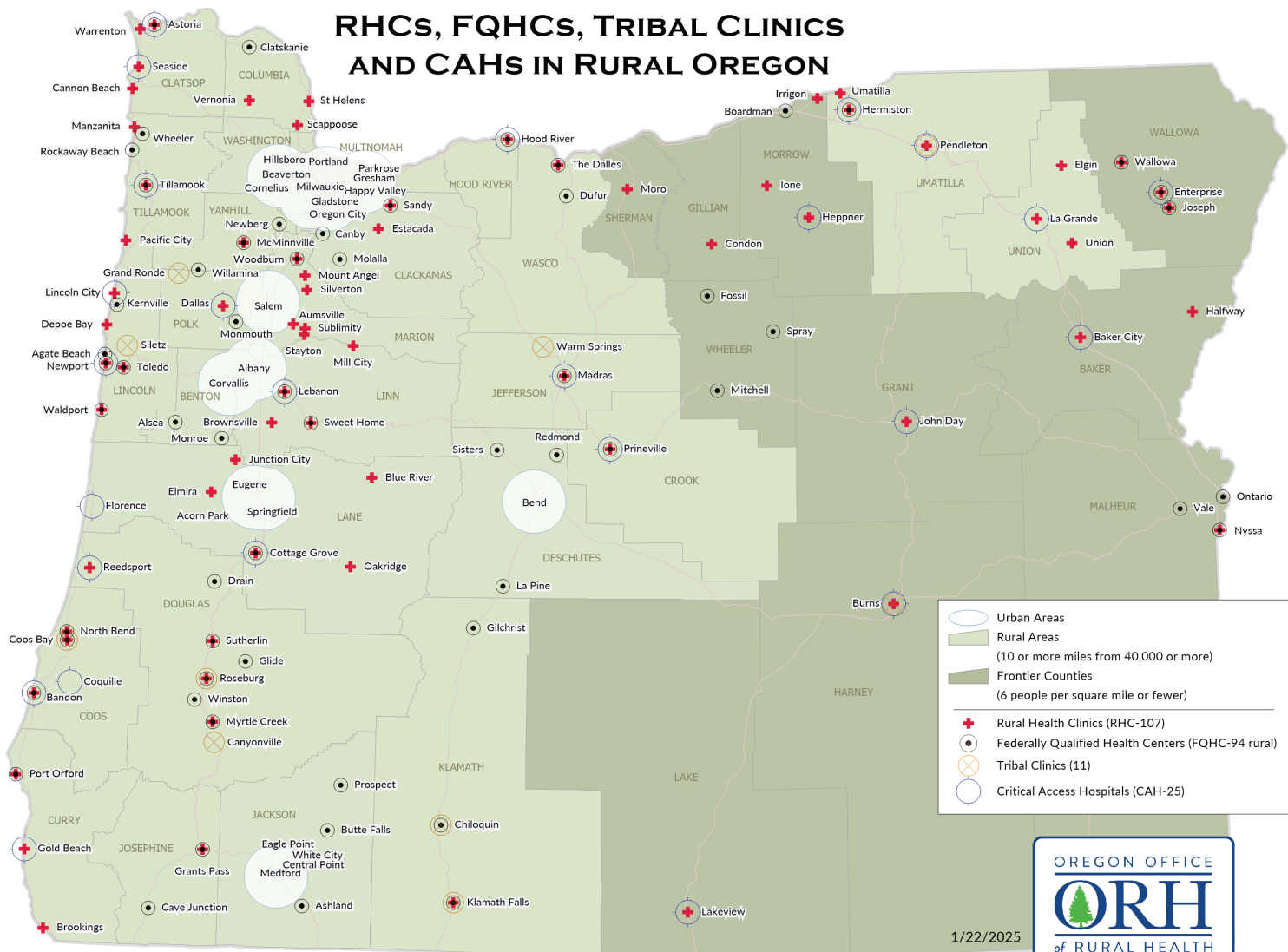
Rural and Frontier/
Remote EMS agencies

STATE AT A GLANCE

33%

OF OREGON'S POPULATION LIVES IN RURAL AND FRONTIER/REMOTE COMMUNITIES

RHCs, FQHCs, TRIBAL CLINICS AND CAHS IN RURAL OREGON



1/22/2025



RHCs: qcor.cms.gov
FQHCs: www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PROVIDERPARTNERRESOURCES/HEALTHCAREPROVIDERSFACILITIES/HEALTHCAREHEALTHCAREREGULATIONQUALITYIMPROVEMENT/Documents/FQHCList.pdf
Tribal Clinics: www.npaihb.org/member-tribes
CAHs: www.ohsu.edu/oregon-office-of-rural-health/oregons-cahs

WHAT IS CONSIDERED RURAL AND FRONTIER/REMOTE?

ORH defines rural as all geographic areas in Oregon 10 or more miles from the centroid of a population center of 40,000 people or more. Frontier/remote counties are defined as those with six or fewer people per square mile. 10 of Oregon's 36 counties are frontier/remote. Find additional definitions of frontier/remote on the ORH website.



ORH'S WORK IS ALIGNED UNDER THE FOLLOWING SERVICE AREAS:

WORKFORCE SERVICES

PROVIDER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

ORH works to match health care providers (physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dentists and more) with health care organizations that provide health care services throughout rural Oregon and other underserved communities.

ORH promotes rural Oregon practice opportunities nationwide through [3RNET](#), the national rural recruitment and retention network.

ORH supports rural practice sites by offering assistance with practice site assessments, practice profile development, development of a recruitment & retention plan, facilitating the marketing of current job opportunities and profiles on 3RNet, and promoting opportunities at medical and dental schools, residencies and other health professional training programs.

PROVIDER INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

ORH partners with HRSA and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to manage loan repayment, loan forgiveness, tax credits and malpractice subsidy programs to incentivize the recruitment and retention of rural and frontier/remote Oregon providers.

FIELD SERVICES

ORH provides various educational programs, resources, grants and technical assistance to Oregon's Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), local public health agencies and rural EMS. ORH partners with HRSA, FORHP, OHA and private philanthropy to support programming.

DATA & ANALYSIS

ORH provides data and analysis about rural and frontier/remote health to providers, elected officials, government agencies, educators and members of the public.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

ORH offers technical assistance to rural and frontier/remote communities and health care facilities to strengthen their health care delivery systems.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND GRANTS

ORH offers education programs and mini grants to assist rural health care facilities and EMS agencies with quality improvement, compliance, emergency preparedness, workforce training and population health initiatives.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADVOCACY

ORH is mandated by the Oregon Legislature to "coordinate statewide efforts for providing health care in rural areas" and to "develop enabling legislation to facilitate further development of rural health care delivery systems."

ORH works with our various partners to improve health and health outcomes in rural Oregon. ORH works with various state and federal agencies to develop programs that improve access and address policies that create barriers. ORH also meets regularly with elected officials at local, state and federal levels to educate them on the challenges to and success in rural health.

INFORMATION SERVICES

ORH believes sharing information is important to improving access to care. ORH keeps its constituents informed through the annual [Oregon Rural Health Conference](#), the annual [Forum on Rural Population Health](#), [quarterly newsletters](#), professional networks and various social media platforms.

2024 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

ORH reached over **1,900** health professionals who had interest in practicing in rural Oregon and referred over **265** health professionals to rural Oregon practice opportunities in 2024.

ORH partners with [3RNET](#), a nationwide jobs network to support health professionals seeking careers in rural and underserved communities in Oregon.

32 rural health care facilities supported in recruitment and retention training.

LOAN FORGIVENESS

Primary Care Loan Forgiveness Program

Multi-institutional program supporting future rural health providers.

\$764,000 in awards
14 awardees

Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative

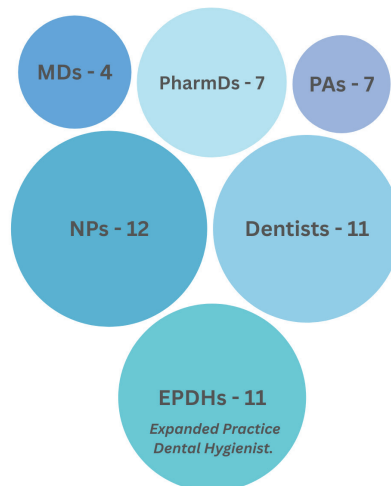
OHSU program focused on future health care providers who will practice in rural and underserved Oregon communities.

\$2.5 million in awards
22 awardees

LOAN REPAYMENT

Oregon Health Care Provider Loan Repayment (state funded)

\$824,000 in awards
210 applicants



Oregon Partnership State Loan Repayment Program (federal/state match)

\$400,000 in awards
45 awardees active in 2024

PROVIDER TAX CREDIT

Rural Provider Tax Credit and Rural Volunteer EMS Tax Credit supports retention of rural providers.

1,955 providers

Including:

75 CNRAs, 32 DMDs, 123 DOs, 22 DPMs, 633 MDs, 627 NPs, 25 ODs, 417 PAs and 325 volunteer EMS providers

2024 By The Numbers

\$1,224,000 in loan repayment awards
\$3,264,700 in loan forgiveness awards

2,792 providers actively participating in incentive programs
695 active site practices
92 providers awarded

Find out more about recruitment and retention programs and provider incentive programs on the [ORH website](#).

2024 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS (CHWs)

25 CHWs initial training supported

Through the [Community Health Worker Pilot Program](#).

350 CHWs supported with training/cross-training

Through the [Healthy Rural Oregon Program](#) in collaboration with the [Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials](#).

[Rural Oregon CHW Network](#) launched

A rural CHW listserv to brainstorm solutions to common challenges and provide resources and educational opportunities.

[Rural CHW Peer Meet-Up](#) initiated

A monthly virtual space where rural CHWs meet to share experiences, problem-solve challenges and more.

RURAL HEALTH CLINIC (RHC)

108 RHCs supported in rural Oregon

449 RHC staff participated in 21 [educational webinars](#)

20 Oregon RHC newsletters published
Register for the newsletter [here](#).

23 Professional development scholarships awarded to RHC Leaders, including:

- Oregon Medical Group Management Association and Annual Oregon Rural Health Conference scholarships
- Certified Rural Health Certified Professional course scholarships
- National Association of RHCs Spring Institute scholarships

16 free in-person mock surveys provided

These events educate and prepare RHCs to succeed in their recertification surveys.

200 technical assistance encounters provided

Addressing a diverse range of services specifically tailored to RHCs' specific needs.

POPULATION HEALTH

[Rural Population Health Incubator Program](#)

Supports population health and health programs at CAHs, RHCs, local public health departments and community-based nonprofits in partnership with [The Roundhouse Foundation](#).

Awarded 13 grants of \$10,000 each

[Forum on Rural Population Health](#)

Launched this annual event to focus on issues that are important to our rural communities. See our [events page](#).

DATA AND PUBLICATIONS

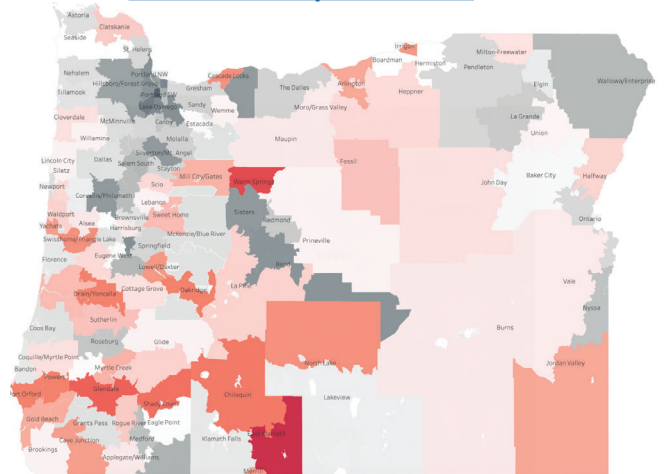
Provided 96 organizations with a Primary Care Service Areas Report

A report designed to represent community use of health care services.

Published the [2024 Oregon Areas of Unmet Health Care Need Report](#)

A report to measure medical underservice in rural areas.

[ORH data and publications](#)



[Unmet Need Final Score - Report Year: 2024](#)

2024 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL (CAH) PROGRAMS

16 CAHs attended the 2024 [CAH Quality Workshop](#), learning best practices and strategies in quality improvement (QI), patient safety and reporting.

12 Oregon CAH Quality Network peer meetings for QI professionals were held.

12 CAHs were engaged in Patient and Family Advisory Council training.

10 CAH QI leaders were enrolled in the National Association of Healthcare Quality program.

5 [Medicare Beneficiary QI webinars](#) were hosted.

2 CAHs supported in the University of Washington Center for Stewardship in Medicine Antimicrobial Stewardship Program.

Published the [CAH Guide to Quality Reporting Programs](#).



5 [CAH financial and operational improvement webinars](#) were held.

14 CAH CEOs, nurses and human resource professionals were supported in the NRHA Rural Hospital CEO, HR and RN Certification Programs

177 technical assistance encounters provided

Addressing a diverse range of services specifically tailored to CAHs' specific needs.

SMALL HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (SHIP)

ORH awarded **27** grants to qualified rural hospitals.

\$287,000 in awards

25 CAHs and 2 small rural hospitals

EMS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES



ORH conducted a needs assessment of rural Oregon EMS workforce recruitment and retention challenges.

ORH received a five-year federal grant to fund initiatives to increase and retain Oregon's rural EMS workforce.

13 Helping EMS in Rural Oregon (HERO) grants were awarded to rural EMS agencies to support continuing education for rural EMS providers.

Learn more about [HERO grants](#).

CAH and EMS emergency simulation trainings

3 CAH and EMS agencies partnered to focus on maternal/infant emergencies to improve maternal health outcomes.

31 technical assistance encounters provided

Addressing a diverse range of services specifically tailored to rural EMS agencies specific needs.



EDUCATION, EVENTS AND OUTREACH

OREGON RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

In **2024**, ORH celebrated **41** years of the Oregon Rural Health Conference, the largest gathering in Oregon dedicated to finding rural solutions to rural challenges.

The Conference included:

44 sessions
74 speakers
406 attendees
49 partnering sponsors

Learn more about the [Conference](#).



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Community Conversations is a bimonthly virtual event to bring together rural community members and partners to discuss pressing rural health topics.

2024 Community Conversations included:

6 events
13 speakers
389 attendees

Learn more about [Community Conversations](#)



FORUM ON RURAL POPULATION HEALTH

In **2024**, ORH launched the Forum on Rural Population Health, an annual event focused on issues that are important to our rural communities.

The Forum included:

29 sessions
59 speakers
200 participants
13 partnering sponsors

Learn more about the [Forum](#).



LISTENING SESSIONS

ORH conducted listening sessions in six rural communities to learn about each area's most significant health and health care challenges and discuss solutions to those challenges.

Participants included, CAH, EMS and public health

Sessions included:

97 participants
50 different organizations





Get in touch

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The Oregon Office of Rural Health has been a partner
with Oregon Health & Science University since 1989.

ORH Partners



STATE

Comagine Health
Oregon Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)
Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS)
Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN)
Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (OCLHO)
Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS)
Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)
Oregon Health Care Workforce Institute (OHWI)
Oregon Medical Association (OMA)
Oregon Nursing Association (ONA)
Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA)
Oregon Public Health Association (OPHA)
Oregon Rural Health Association (ORHA)
Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network (ORPRN)
Pacific University
Telehealth Alliance of Oregon (TAO)
Western University of Health Sciences –Comp NW



NATIONAL

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)
National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH)
National Rural Health Association (NRHA)
National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNET)