



42nd Annual Oregon Rural Health Conference Call for Presentations: Rural Solutions for Rural Challenges

The Oregon Office of Rural Health (ORH) seeks proposals for presentations at the 42nd Annual Oregon Rural Health Conference, taking place Oct. 1 – 3, 2025 at the Riverhouse on the Deschutes in Bend, Oregon.

The Conference's mission is to strengthen health care in rural Oregon by sharing knowledge, expertise and resources on innovations and best practices in health. The Conference's goal is to share rural solutions for rural challenges in health care.

Proposals must be submitted by March 30, 2025.

The Conference will prioritize proposals that:

- Describe and promote collaboration between community organizations (hospitals, clinics, community-based organizations (CBOs), public health departments, etc.);
- Support rural hospitals, clinics, EMS and public health agencies in their efforts to serve their communities most effectively;
- Describe the direct impact of research on **rural** communities and tangible next steps for attendees;
- Describe an innovative program or approach; and
- Describe how to implement a specific program or approach, including one or more case studies and/or real-life examples.

All presentations will be 50 minutes in length and must include tangible action items for attendees and/or best practices on how to implement programs in rural communities.

Please note that we will not accept proposals that sell a product or service.

We are seeking proposals focused on the following topics (although topics are not limited to this list):

- Health care policy and laws affecting the delivery of rural health care;
- Regulations, policies and innovations specific to rural public health;
- Strategies targeted to rural health clinics and the unique challenges and requirements applicable to them;
- Strategies targeted to rural hospitals and clinics focused on quality reporting and improvement (i.e., tools, resources, best practices and success stories);
- Strategies for recruiting and retaining a health care and public health workforce;
- Innovative education pathways programs to develop local health care workforces;
- Strategies for building healthy communities capable of attracting a health care workforce, including non-health care employment, schools and housing;
- Collaborations among public health organizations, health care providers and communities;
- Social drivers of health in different environments (i.e., hospitals, clinics, public health, CBOs, etc.);
- Patient experience and engagement in rural health care;
- Patient safety and best practices in rural health care;

- Women's health: reproductive health care, maternal and child health;
- LGBTQIA+ and gender affirming care in rural Oregon;
- Health care in Tribal communities;
- Health care for veterans in rural communities;
- Health care for people with disabilities in rural communities;
- Mental and behavioral health care in rural Oregon;
- Dental health care access in rural Oregon;
- EMS and mobile integrated health in rural Oregon; and
- Emergency preparation: pandemics, climate change impacts and natural disasters.

Proposals are due by 5 p.m. on March 30, 2025, and are to be submitted through the online form, linked below.
They will be selected by May 30, 2025.

PLEASE REVIEW PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS BELOW BEFORE STARTING YOUR ONLINE SUBMISSION

Proposal Requirements

- The number of speakers for your presentation;
- Information needed for each speaker:
 - Name;
 - Email address;
 - Phone number;
 - Position title;
 - Credentials (i.e., PhD, MPH, MD, DO, PA, MSW, BA, MA, etc.), if applicable;
 - Organization; and
 - Short bio for each speaker (maximum 750 characters, including spaces);
- Presentation title;
- Presentation description (maximum 2500 characters, including spaces);
- Presentation date and time availability:
 - Available anytime;
 - Available anytime the afternoon of Oct. 1;
 - Available morning of Oct.2;
 - Available afternoon of Oct. 2; and/or
 - Available morning of Oct. 3.

Consider the following:

- We are grateful to all speakers whose organizations can cover their travel costs, and you will have a chance to indicate that in the submission.
- If reimbursement is needed, ORH policy is as follows: we will reimburse **one** speaker per presentation for up to \$190 for lodging, plus mileage reimbursement at the October 2025 IRS rate for up to 700 miles roundtrip, or airfare to and from Portland or Redmond, whichever is less. We are not in a position to offer travel reimbursement for additional speakers.
- The first speaker's \$399 registration fee is complimentary; the second speaker will receive a \$100 discount, for a fee of \$299; the third speaker's registration is the full \$399.

Please direct any content questions to Robert Duehmig at duehmigr@ohsu.edu and any logistical or process questions to Laura Potter at potterla@ohsu.edu.

Click [here](#) to submit your proposal!