



OREGON
HEALTH
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Primary Care Workforce Challenges in Oregon

Neelam Gupta, Director of Clinical Supports, Integration and Workforce Unit
Presentation to the Senate Committee on Health Care

Primary care is in crisis: Workforce does not meet patient need

The **nation's primary care provider capacity** does not meet current patient need now, is decreasing, and will not meet the needs of an aging population.

- The rate of primary care providers nationwide per 100,000 dropped from 105.7 in 2021 to 103.8 in 2022.
- One national study projects a shortage of 87,150 full-time equivalent primary care physicians by 2037, which will be particularly acute in nonmetro areas.
- The rate of primary care residents per 100,000 people remained stagnant at 17 between 2020 and 2022, while the rate for all other specialties increased from 29 to 30.

Oregon's primary care provider capacity does not meet patient need.

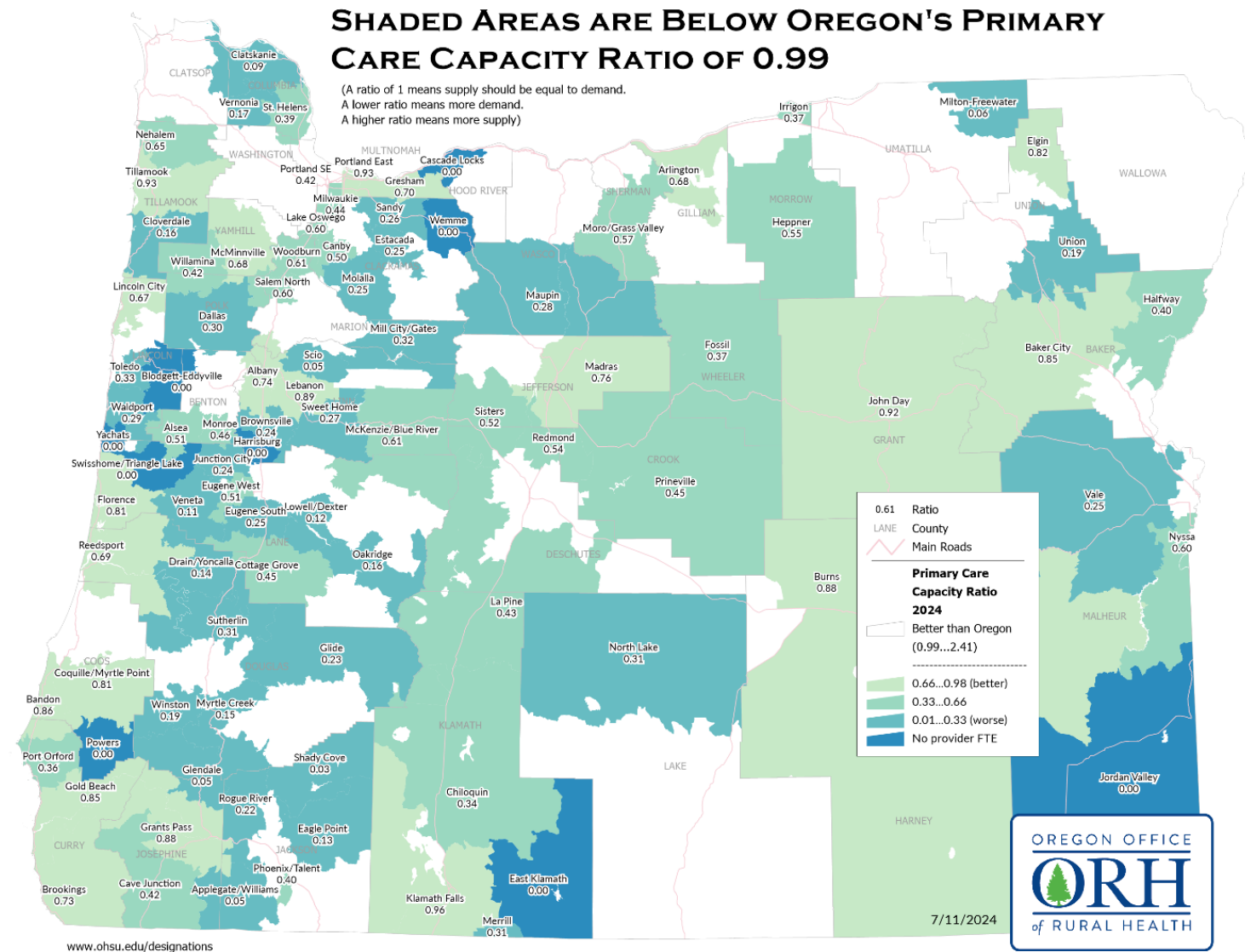
- A national primary care research organization predicts **Oregon will need 1,200 more primary care providers by 2030. Current training and recruitment levels won't meet that need.**
- The share of Oregon Academy of Family Physician members who have retired has grown by over 50% since 2015, while overall membership has grown by only 20%.

Areas of Unmet Health Care Need: Primary care capacity in Oregon by service area

- Rural and remote areas had low primary care capacity, indicating that the number of providers* was insufficient to meet the demand for primary care services.

*Includes general/family medicine physicians, pediatricians, obstetrician-gynecologists (OB-GYNs), internists, physician associates, and nurse practitioners.

Source: Oregon Office of Rural Health, Oregon Areas of Unmet Health Care Need report, September 2024.



HOWTO Grant Program supported new Oregon rural primary care residency programs: “Grads stay where they train”

HOWTO background

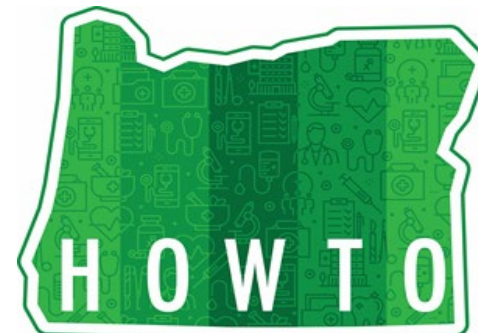
- Initiated in 2019 to fund projects that address local health care workforce shortages and expand workforce diversity
- Overseen by OHA in partnership with Oregon Health & Science University under Oregon Health Policy Board

Three new rural primary care residency programs started with HOWTO grant funding

- **Roseburg Family Medicine Residency Program:** 8 residency positions
- **Samaritan Pacific Rural Training Track (Newport):** 6 residency positions
- **St. Charles Health System Three Sisters Rural Training Track:** 3 residency positions

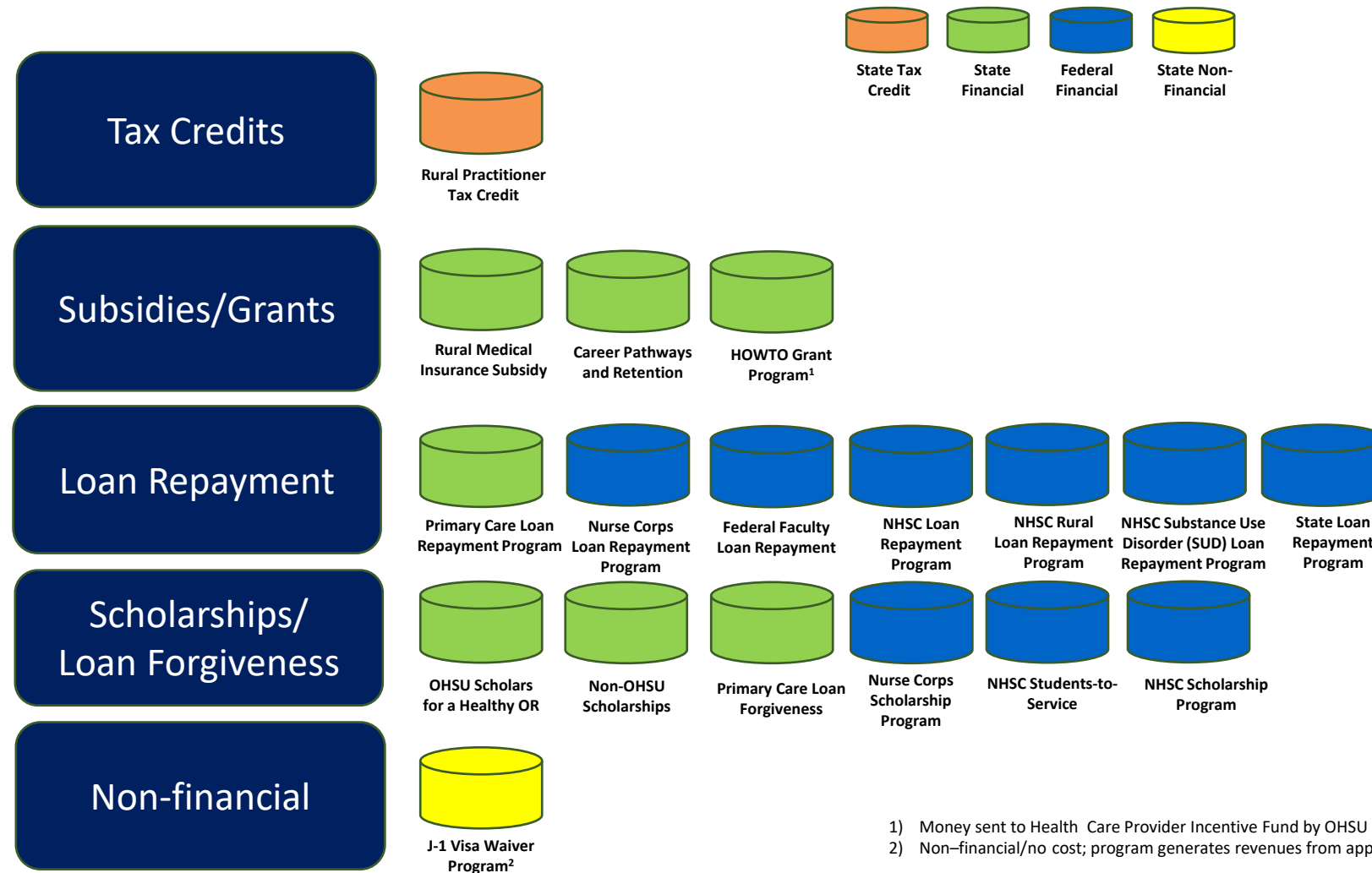
Challenges in starting new programs

- High start-up costs for several years
- Extensive workload
- Faculty recruitment



**Healthy Oregon Workforce
Training Opportunity Grant**

OHA-managed federal and state financial incentives supporting primary care providers in Oregon



- 1) Money sent to Health Care Provider Incentive Fund by OHSU per intergovernmental agreement
- 2) Non-financial/no cost; program generates revenues from application fees to cover biennial costs

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