

Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Program

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Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation (RVHT) Program

- Veterans in rural areas face barriers to accessing healthcare
 - Travel long distances
 - Services located beyond normal transit routes
- Rural Veterans' Healthcare Transp. provides on-demand rides to healthcare services
- Funded with dedicated lottery funds
- RVHT Program lives in ODVA who receives funding
- ODOT administers the program through an interagency agreement



Program Background

2019 – 21 Cycle 1

- SB 5036 created the RVHT pilot program & allocated \$500K in dedicated lottery funds
- Interagency agreement with ODVA
- 10 grants awarded

2023 – 25 Cycle 3

- Legislature allocated \$650K in dedicated lottery funds (SB 5538)
- 5 grants awarded
- Prioritized renewing some grants in Cycle 2 to preserve services during solicitation process

2021 – 23 Cycle 2

- HB 2139 formalized RVHT in statute
- Legislature allocated \$650K in dedicated lottery funds (HB 3056)
- 11 grants awarded

2025 - 27 Cycle 4

- Application period opens August 2025
- Renewing all grants from Cycle 3 to preserve service during solicitation
- 2025-27 total award potential TBD

Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Impacts

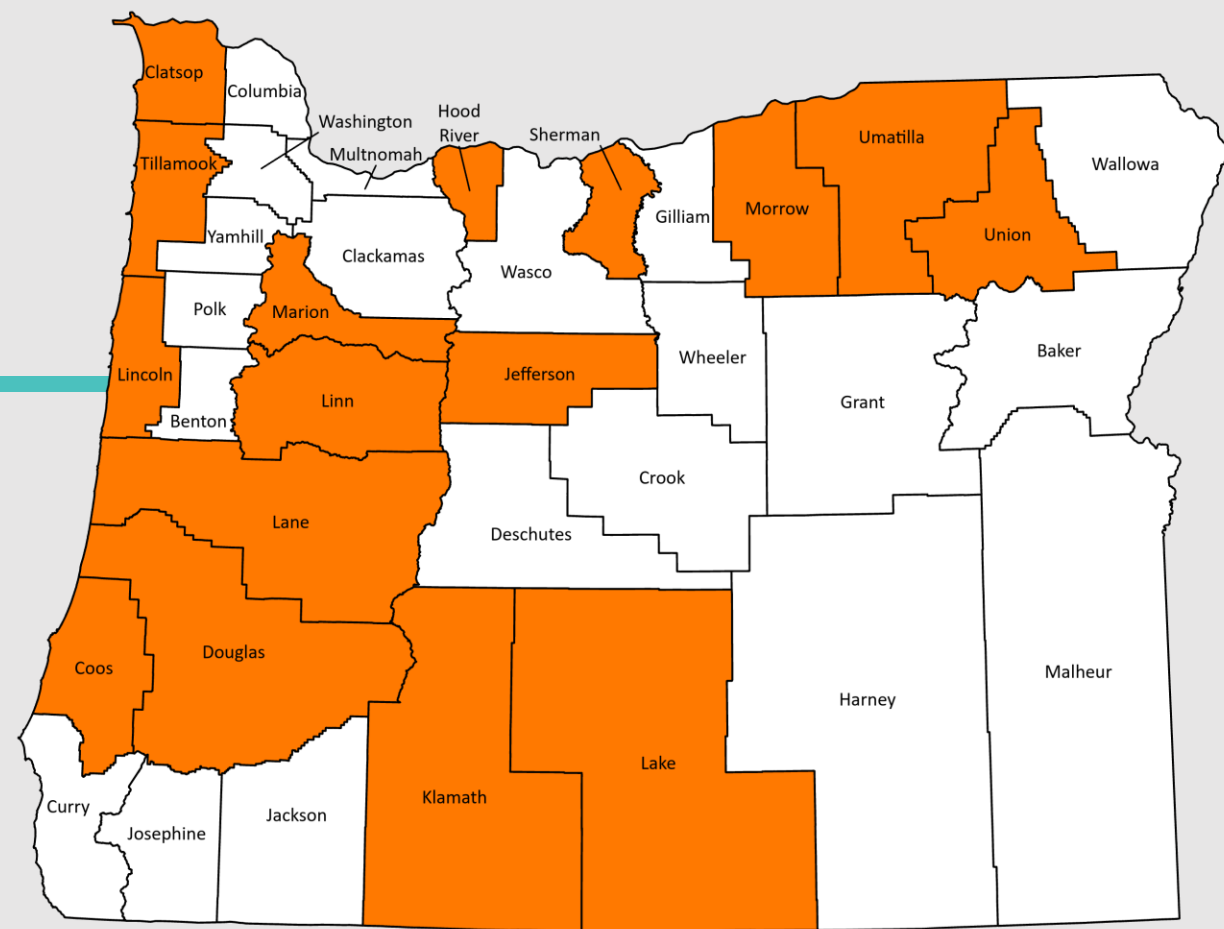
- Grant funds available to transit districts, counties and federally-recognized Tribes in rural areas in Oregon
- 26 grants awarded since 2019 for a total of \$1.69 million
- 17 total recipients
- 6 recipients so far have received 2+ awards with more repeat recipients expected in 2025
- Repeat recipients provide stability for veterans in communities with established need



Program Outcomes

- Awards have touched 16 counties
- >57,000 veteran rides* provided
- >450,000 miles* traveled
- Connects veterans to services under a broad definition of "healthcare":

- Community clinics, physical and occupational therapy, pharmacies, smoking cessation, mental health, dental, vision, audiology, etc.
- Rides can go to **both VA and non-VA services**



Counties that RVHT grants have served since 2019.

*Data for the current biennium is incomplete

A blue bus is driving away from the viewer on a two-lane asphalt road that curves through a dry, hilly landscape. The hills are covered in sparse, dry vegetation. In the distance, a prominent mountain with a snow-capped peak is visible under a cloudy sky. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting dusk or dawn.

Questions?