



SB 443: BUILDING OREGON'S PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE

BACKGROUND

Oregon has nine family medicine residency sites, five of which are in rural areas. This year, there are 159 residents in training, and 37 of the 53 new family physicians last year chose to stay in Oregon. With 1,174 more physicians needed by 2030 to meet demand, it is essential to sustain and expand training opportunities to ensure access to primary care, particularly in medically underserved areas.

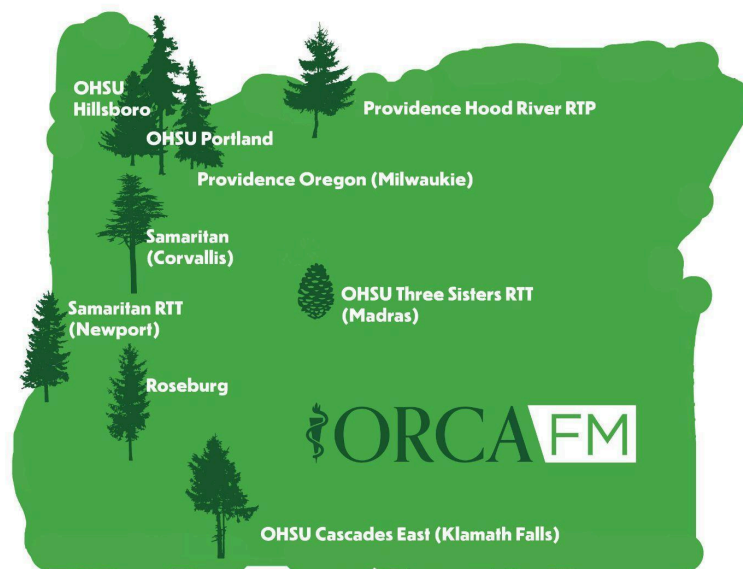
THE PROBLEM

- Nearly half of Oregon's family physicians are over 50 years old, and as they approach retirement age, our shortage is likely to get worse.
- Training capacity is increasing, but needs further support to sustain and expand.
- Oregon retains over 50% of family medicine physicians trained in the state, making local investment in training crucial.

THE SOLUTION: ORCA-FM

The Oregon Residency Collaborative Alliance for Family Medicine (ORCA-FM) first received state support in 2023 through Senate Bill 490 to strengthen and expand family medicine residency programs by:

- Expanding rural training opportunities to increase physician access in underserved areas.
- Supporting existing residency programs to ensure stability and continued growth.
- Attracting top-quality physician trainees by funding faculty development and research initiatives.
- Providing resources for resident trainees, including quality improvement projects and national conference participation.
- Supporting collaborative site reviews to maintain program excellence.
- Provide resources for program directors, associate program directors, and faculty to ensure that Oregon's residency programs provide the most effective and cutting-edge curricular opportunities



ABOUT ORCA-FM

ORCA-FM is a nonprofit network of Oregon's Family Medicine residencies dedicated to enhancing primary care through high-quality physician training and leadership development. We work closely with Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) and each residency program to develop supportive programs, inclusive policies, and meaningful engagement. Recent accomplishments include:

- Establishing ORCA-FM as an independent 501(c)(3) organization, hiring an Executive Director, and developing infrastructure to support programs.
- Launching a strategic plan to improve training and advocacy efforts.
- Implementing innovative programs such as:
 - **Policy Scholars:** Training future physician advocates to make a difference in their communities through policy and engagement.
 - **Primary Care Beyond Clinic Walls:** Strengthening doctor-community collaboration by creating and supporting partnerships.
 - **Virtual Residency Week:** Equitably expanding access to residency programs for medical students across the globe.
 - **National Conference Representation:** Engaging medical students in family medicine by providing support for 9 residency programs during the National recruitment conference.
 - **Scholarships & Leadership Development:** Supporting residents and faculty in professional growth.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING INITIATIVES

- **Fiscal Advising:** Free financial planning is available to all residents, providing a unique financial resource to help residents build financial tools that
- **Contract Support:** Free on-demand contract negotiation support for residents.
- **POCUS Curriculum:** Leading competency-based ultrasound education.
- **Experts on Tap:** Connecting residents with specialized mentorship (launching soon).
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Program:** Developing initiatives to enhance diversity and inclusion in family medicine training.

With ongoing funding, ORCA-FM is enhancing Oregon's primary care physician workforce. Continued investment in these programs ensures long-term access to quality healthcare for all Oregonians, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

SUPPORTING PARTNERS:



Southern Oregon Alliance of Physicians & Providers



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