



Oregon Office of Rural Health

Mail code: L593  
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road  
Portland, Oregon 97239-3098  
tel 503 494-4450 | fax 503 494-4798  
toll free 866 674-4376  
[www.ohsu.edu/oregonruralhealth](http://www.ohsu.edu/oregonruralhealth)

April 23, 2025

Co-Chairs Sen. Sollman and Rep. Ruiz, Members of the Committee,

My name is Robert Duehmig, and I am the Director of the Oregon Office of Rural Health (ORH) at OHSU. **I am here in support of SB 5525 and OHSU's funding.**

Our mission is to improve the quality, availability and accessibility of health care for rural Oregonians. We do this through the provision of technical assistance to rural and Critical Access Hospitals, certified Rural Health Clinics, local public health and rural EMS. This assistance covers areas from finance, operations and governance to quality measures as well as workforce and population health-based assistance.

The ORH moved from Oregon state government to OHSU in 1989 when the legislature created the rural provider tax credit, formalized our workforce role and supported OHSU's creation of the Area Health Education Centers Program (AHEC). The move to OHSU has allowed the ORH to expand and leverage our work in supporting Oregon's rural health system. The partnership with Oregon AHECs has created a more seamless approach to providing rural Oregon with a needed workforce.

As part of our work in supporting the rural health care workforce, we provide assistance to rural facilities, providers and students. ORH has a full-time provider recruiter who assists rural facilities in recruitment and retention. ORH reached over 1900 providers with interest in practicing in rural Oregon, referring 265 to specific practice opportunities. Our recruiter also works with students at OHSU, CompNW, Pacific University and others to learn about rural practice opportunities, CV preparation and interview assistance. ORH administers the 3Rnet site, a national, nonprofit jobs board.

ORH administers [federal and state provider incentive programs](#), including loan repayment, loan forgiveness and rural provider and EMS tax credits. During 2024, ORH awarded \$1,224,000 in loan repayment awards and \$3,264,700 in loan forgiveness.

ORH supports our rural communities in many ways. I am including a few examples here:

[HERO: helping EMS in Rural Oregon](#): Supports EMS agencies in a rural or frontier areas in continuing education for employees.

[Rural Population Health Incubator Program](#): Strengthens community health in rural Oregon by providing grants to support population health initiatives led by rural hospitals, clinics, public health departments and community-based nonprofit organizations.

[Community Health Worker Training Program](#): This is a grant program to fund the training of CHWs for employment at rural hospitals, clinics and/or public health departments in Oregon.

[Rural Oregon CHW Network](#): Connects CHW from across the state to support each other in the important work they do.

[Medicare Beneficiary Quality Program Top Performer Awards](#): ORH recognizes top performing Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and their Quality Officers each year for consistently reporting MBQIP measures and demonstrating strong results. CAH recipients receive a \$5,000 grant to be used towards quality improvement efforts specific to MBQIP reporting.

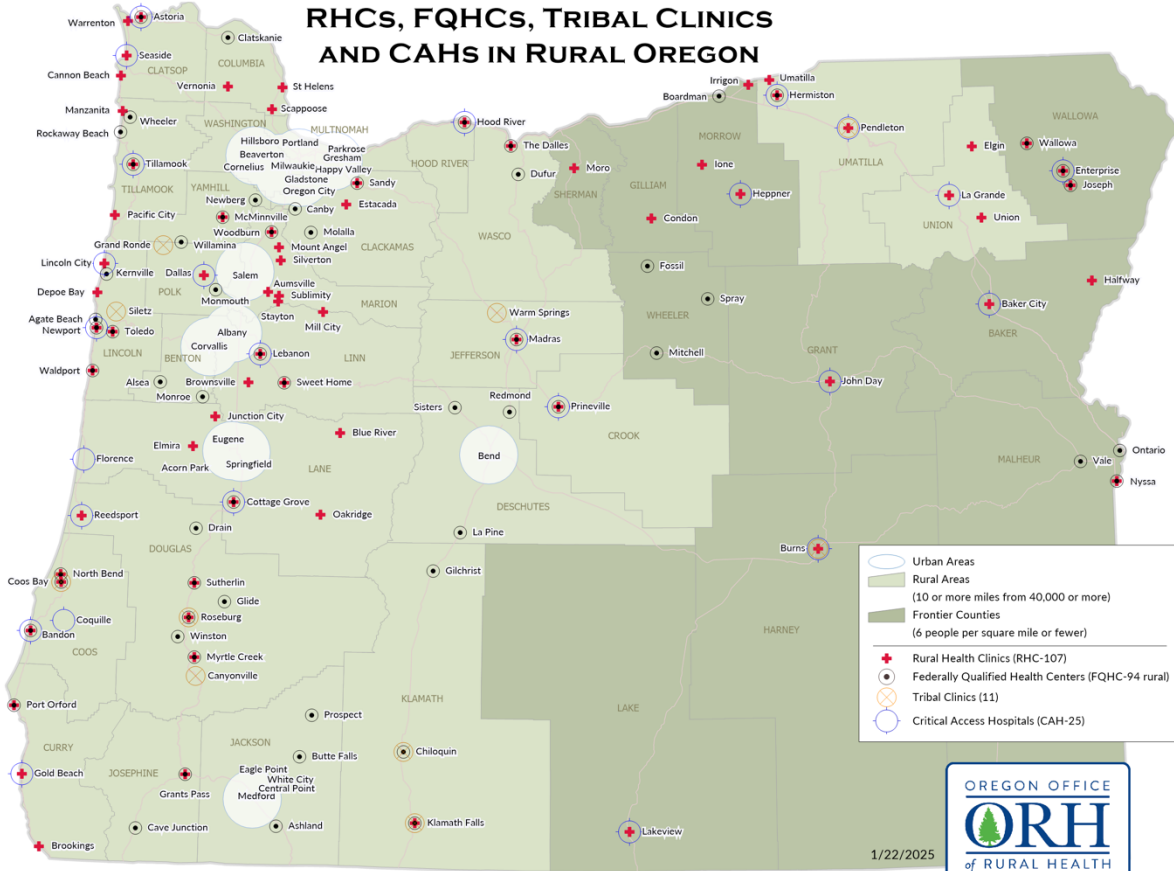
[Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program \(SHIP\)](#): The SHIP grant is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy to assist eligible hospitals in meeting cost requirements established under the Medicare Program.

[Area of Unmet Health Care Needs Report](#): Annual report, legislatively mandated, to measure medical underservice in rural areas.

[Oregon Rural Health Excellence Awards](#): To recognize rural hospitals, clinics, local public health departments (LPHDs), EMS agencies and CBOs that demonstrate remarkable dedication to health outcomes in their communities, we invite eligible facilities to apply for the Oregon Office of Rural Health's (ORH's) Rural Health Excellence Award.

You can find additional information on the work we do in our most recent [year-end report](#).

## 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](http://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PROVIDERPARTNERRESOURCES/HEALTHCAREPROVIDERSFACILITIES/HEALTHCAREHEALTHCAREREGULATIONQUALITYIMPROVEMENT/Documents/FQHCList.pdf)  
Tribal Clinics: [www.npalhb.org/member-tribes](http://www.npalhb.org/member-tribes)  
CAHs: [www.ohsu.edu/oregon-office-of-rural-health/oregon-cahs](http://www.ohsu.edu/oregon-office-of-rural-health/oregon-cahs)