

# Columbia Memorial Hospital requests \$6 million for resiliency and expanded health care access

## Local match for \$20 million FEMA BRIC grant

### The BuildCMH Expansion Project

From 2024-2027, Columbia Memorial Hospital will make an investment in health care on its Astoria campus in what will be one of the largest construction projects in Clatsop County history. This capital improvement project will expand hospital service lines, attract new health care providers, and provide the latest technology to address community health needs.

- Meeting community health needs here at home with the caregivers and providers patients trust.
- Building the infrastructure to support patient privacy and preferences, in addition to needed upgrades.
- Increasing resiliency and offering safe refuge in case of a natural disaster like an earthquake or tsunami.

The design for the expansion will follow CMH's commitment to our philosophy of person-centered care. It will reflect the region's architecture and beauty, emphasizing natural light, views and efficiency in the delivery of care.

The planned design includes total new construction of approximately 180,000 square feet, including a critically needed expansion of the CMH Emergency Department. Other expanded areas include additional operating rooms, larger patient rooms, lab draw, radiology services, a new chapel, dedicated caregiver respite areas, and dining facilities.

The size of the facility will help preserve patient dignity and privacy by creating private corridors, private bathrooms for inpatients, and more space in registration areas. There will also be improved parking availability and comfortable waiting areas for visitors.

### About us

Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) is one of the largest Critical Access Hospitals in Oregon, serving families living in and visiting the Lower Columbia Region since 1880. It is a full-service, 25-bed, Level IV trauma center with 17 outpatient clinics, caring for a population of over 60,000 people.

CMH is an independent, private, not-for-profit organization and employs more than 900 caregivers. Person-centered care is key to our mission, signaling to the community that providers prioritize comfort, dignity, empowerment and wellbeing, along with top-quality care.

With our team of caregivers, we are deeply committed to improving the health of our region, seeking new ways to innovate and advance our level of care and service. Through a unique academic/rural partnership, CMH and Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) collaborate to provide emergency, women's health, cardiology and other specialty services.

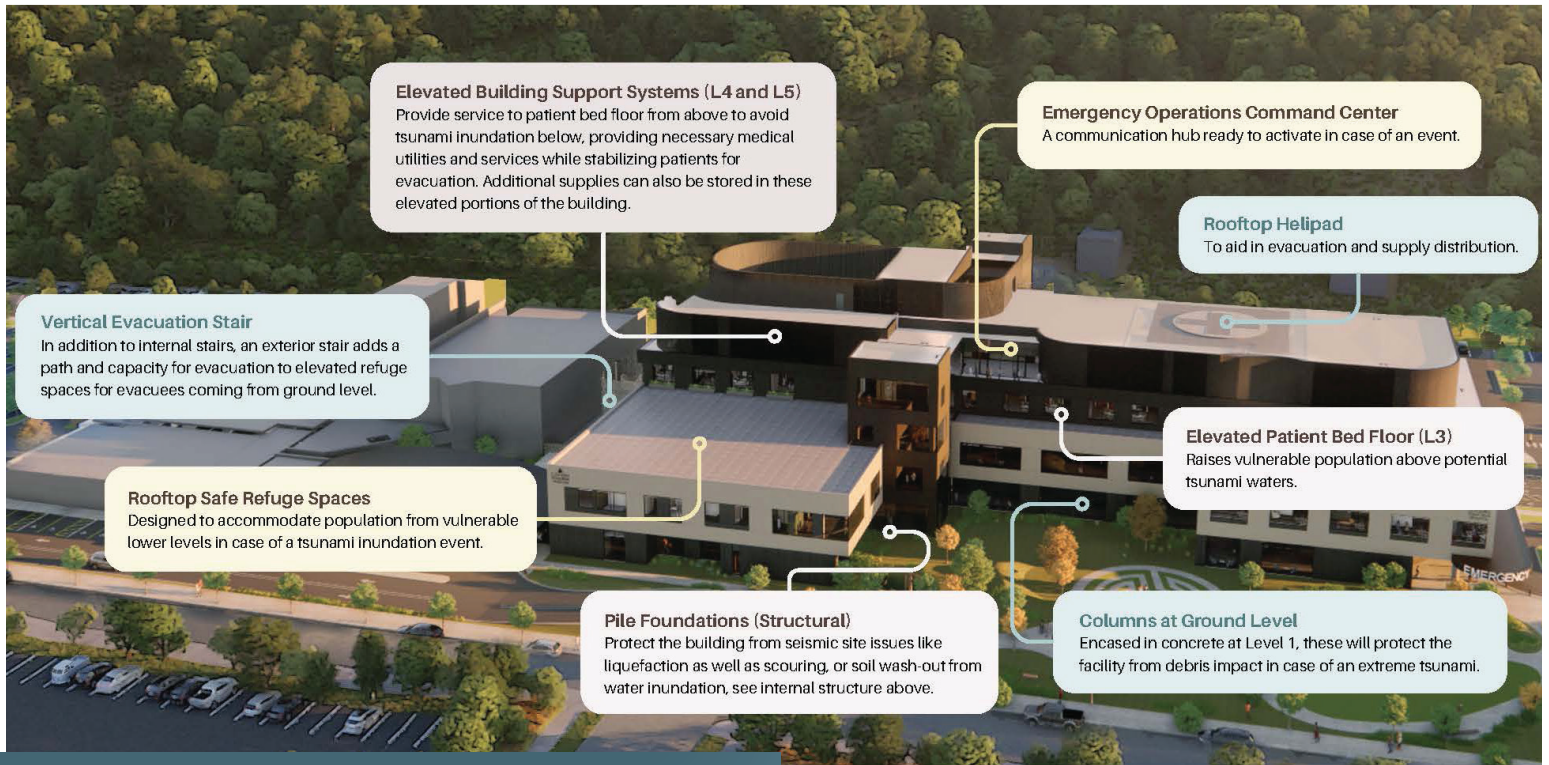
The most significant example of our collaboration is the CMH-OHSU Knight Cancer Collaborative, which opened in Astoria in 2017. The facility offers medical oncology, chemotherapy, radiation oncology and radiation therapy.

Patients save approximately 80,000 driving miles, 1,600 hours of drive time, 3,000 gallons of gasoline and \$44,800 in costs per month by getting their care close to home. In 2023, there were more than 15,500 patient visits. Very few rural communities have a cancer center of this magnitude, and without our unique partnership with OHSU, that level of care would not be possible.

CMH's main campus is located in Astoria, Oregon. We also operate outpatient medical and urgent care clinics in Warrenton and Seaside. CMH continues to grow and remains dedicated to serving and improving the health of our neighbors.



Proposed rendering of Columbia Memorial Hospital expansion.



## A safe, resilient community refuge

It's not if a tsunami will hit Astoria — it's when. Tsunamis, earthquakes and other natural disasters wreak havoc on health care infrastructure worldwide. Limited medical resources during these catastrophes only exacerbate the loss of life.

As a Critical Access Hospital, CMH is obligated to be prepared for the citizens of the North Coast. The BuildCMH Expansion Project is a groundbreaking initiative with state-of-the-art design elements specifically built to help the hospital withstand tsunamis and earthquakes.

CMH has engaged regional emergency management leadership and some of the best consultants in the Pacific Northwest, as well as DOGAMI, Oregon Emergency Management, the University of Washington and Clatsop County, in addition to a strong team of experienced geotechnical and civil engineers, to understand



the risks on the CMH campus and the impacts of earthquakes and tsunamis.

This facility will keep all critical infrastructure (generators, water storage, IT components, helipad) on the roof, above any potential flooding. Any service located on the first floor will have the ability to move to the second floor. The new facility will also have a Tsunami Vertical Evacuation Structure (TVES) and safe refuge area for CMH caregivers, patients and community members, with evacuation possible from the roof.

CMH hopes this leading-edge facility, the first to have a TVES in the United States, will be a model for other coastal hospitals.

## Help us maximize federal dollars

CMH has been selected for a competitive FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant of \$20 million. To receive the grant, CMH must raise \$6 million in matching funds.

Without this \$6 million (2% of the overall project cost), we won't get any of the \$20 million grant. Your support will get us to 100% funding for the project and ensure uninterrupted care in critical moments. Join us and invest in the infrastructure to protect rural Oregonians.

