



Oregon Cancer Foundation COVID-19 Rural Transportation Initiative



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Project Overview

In 2020, Oregon Cancer Foundation (OCF) applied to the Community Partnership Program for funding to address a loss of transportation options for rural cancer patients in Lane County due to the COVID-19 pandemic by:

- 1) Distributing up to \$500 in gas card and ADA accessible transport assistance to individual applicants
- 2) Tracking the number of rides taken and miles traveled using this assistance
- 3) Providing educational materials on COVID safety for patients in cancer treatment

The project aimed to distribute \$9,125 in gas cards and \$875 in ADA accessible bus rides, with participants taking at least 365 rides to treatment using gas assistance and 250 trips by bus

Goals and Objectives

The project's primary goal was offsetting the overall loss of transportation options for cancer patients in Lane County and creating new opportunities for rural patients previously excluded from transportation assistance. The project also addressed ongoing difficulties in educating patients on COVID safety protocols by providing educational materials. The program offered up gas card assistance to patients traveling to treatment from rural areas of Lane County, patients traveling outside Lane County for treatment, and patients for whom the cost of transportation presented a significant barrier to treatment. OCF also offered passes for ADA accessible rides through Lane Transit District's RideSource program, and provided educational materials on COVID safety to all participants.

Key Partners

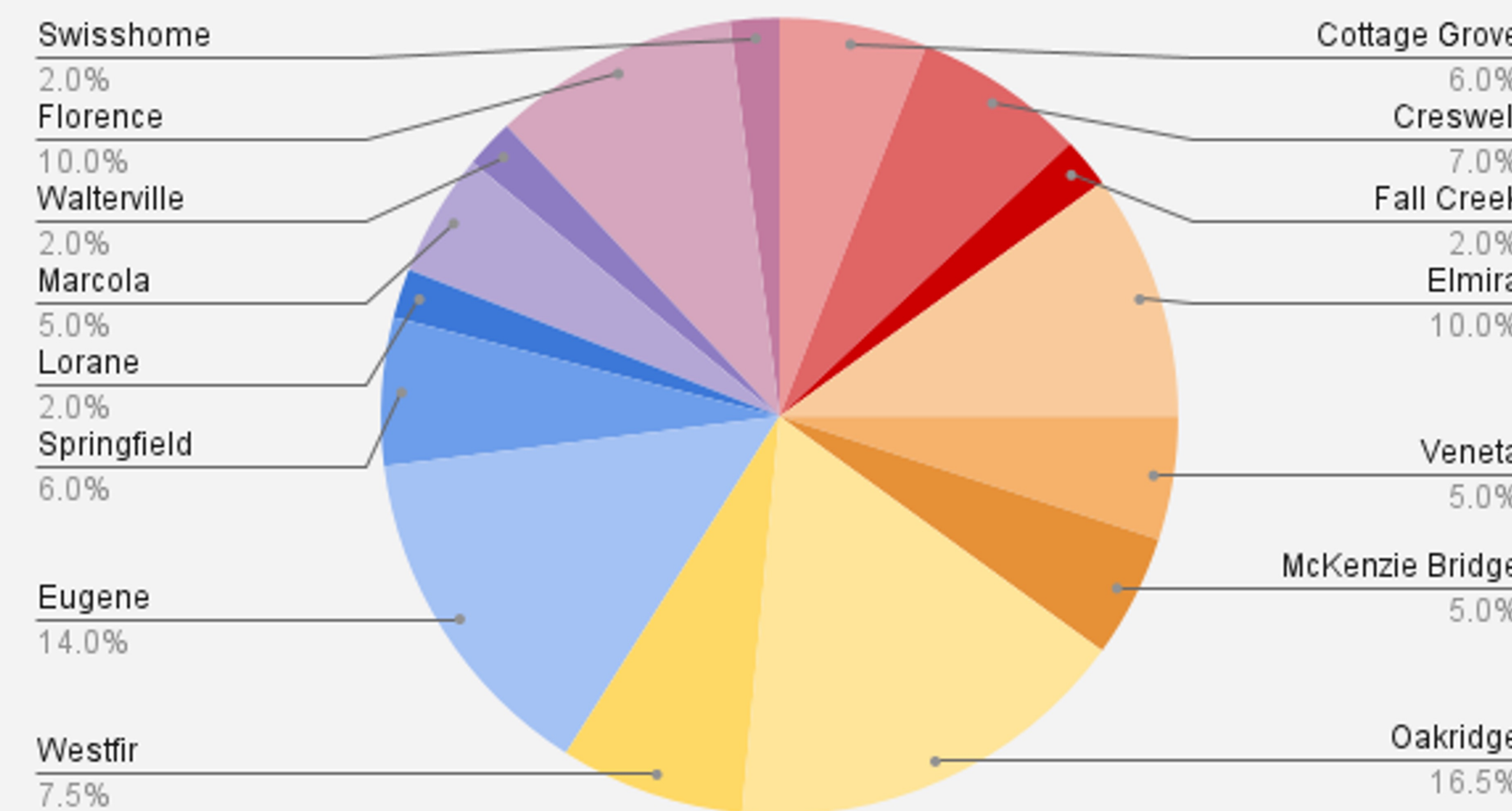
- OCF conducted this project without a formal partner. However, the project was carried out in tandem with our existing financial assistance program, which involves close collaboration with our community referring partners
- OCF worked closely with the social services teams at Willamette Valley Cancer Institute (WVCI), Cascade Hospice, and other area medical providers to help identify potential project participants. Our partners helped to assess patient needs and guide potential candidates through the application process
- The social services teams also acted as liaisons between OCF and program participants, providing gas cards and program materials to patients face to face as needed

Project Implementation

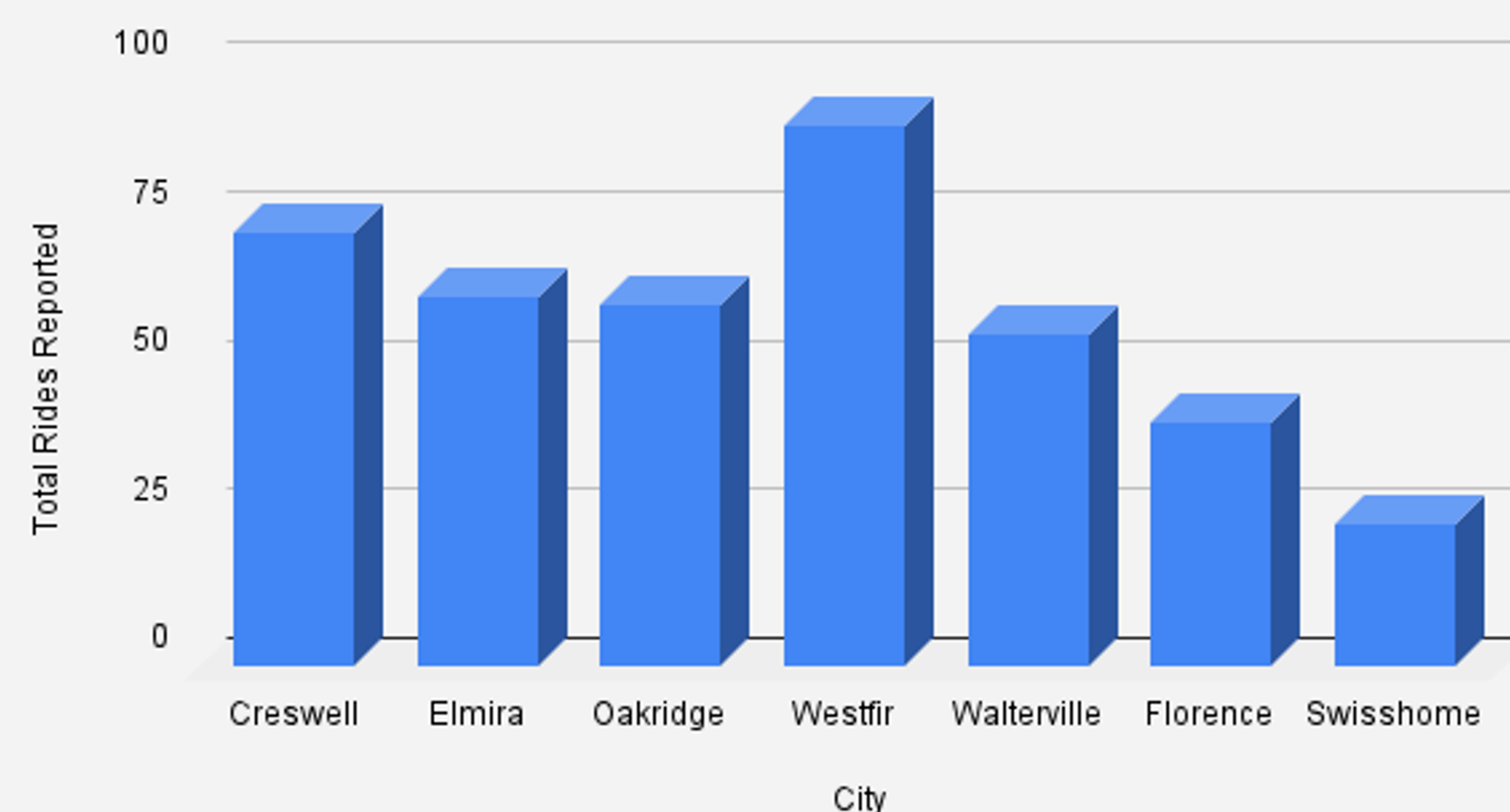
Program Activities

- 33 unique participants from 15 different communities received transportation assistance
- 80% of all gas cards sent to ZIP Codes outside the Eugene/Springfield area
- 500 gas cards totaling \$10,000 in gas assistance provided
- 210 Tickets totaling \$735 distributed for RideSource ADA accessible rides to treatment
- 618 total trips to treatment reported by gas card program participants, 408 by car and 210 by bus
- 16,293 total reported miles traveled, approximately 40 miles per trip
- Gas cards used for rides to chemotherapy and radiation appointments, prescription pick-ups, follow up and consultation visits to physicians, and physical therapy appointments

Communities Served by % of Gas Cards Distributed



Total Rides To Treatment Reported Per Community

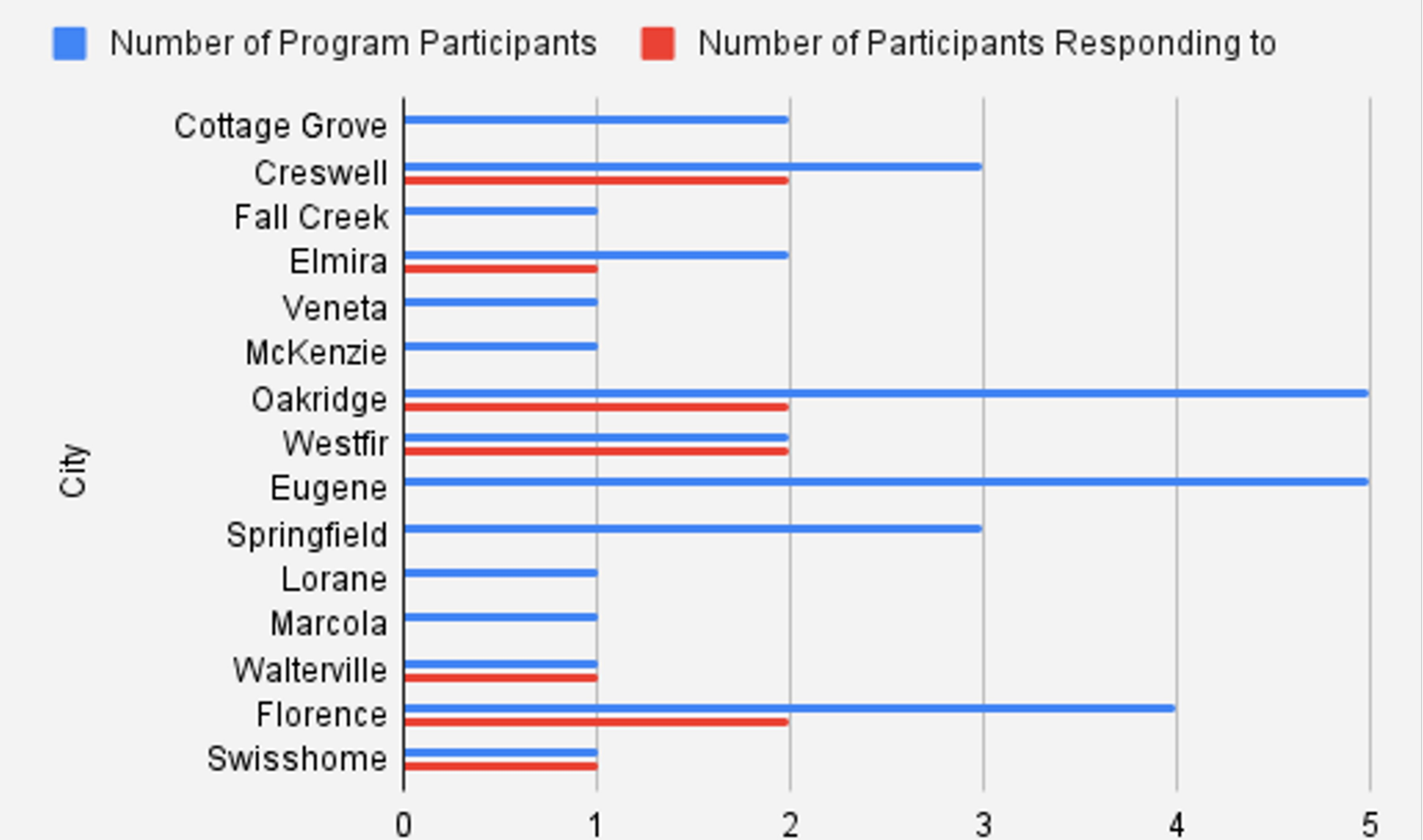


Evaluation

Evaluation Activities

- Program participants were given surveys to self-report rides to treatment taken using gas assistance, the number of miles traveled, and the destination of each trip
- Overall survey response was 33%, with 11 of 33 participants returning the survey sheet
- Surveys were anonymous, but did contain ZIP code information to identify the community of the respondent
- Reported totals exceeded or met initial project goals
- While while the total miles and rides provided to all project participants is difficult to estimate with confidence, an estimate based on the rate of return by ZIP code suggest that the project likely provided at least 1,000 total rides to treatment and 40,000 miles traveled

Program Participants vs. Survey Response



References/Acknowledgements

- Funding for this project was provided by the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute Community Partnership Program, a grant program that supports communities across Oregon in addressing local cancer-related needs.
- We would also like to acknowledge the social services teams at the Willamette Valley Cancer Institute, Cascade Hospice, Pacific Integrative Oncology, Northwest Surgical Specialists/Oregon Surgical Wellness, and oncology care providers throughout Lane County, who provided invaluable assistance and collaboration on this project.