

**2025 YEAR-END REPORT**

**OREGON**  
**OFFICE**  
**OF RURAL**  
**HEALTH**

IMPROVING THE QUALITY, AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF HEALTH CARE FOR RURAL OREGONIANS

# OREGON OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

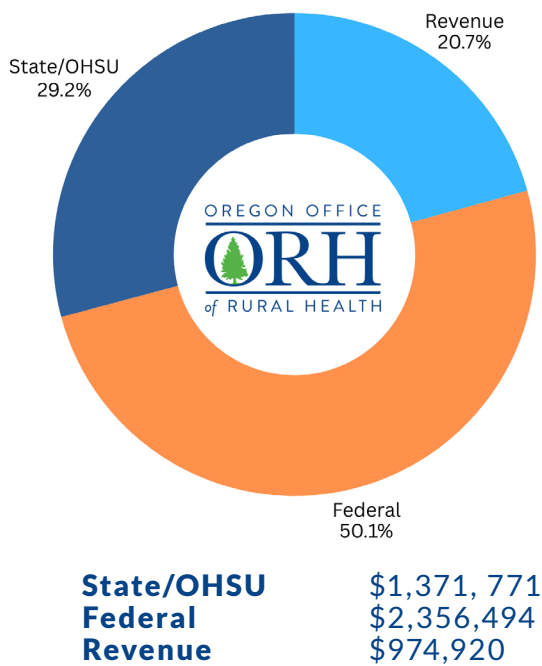
**THE OREGON OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH (ORH)** has been the focal point for rural and frontier/remote health in Oregon since 1979. Supported by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), the state of Oregon and Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), ORH offers assistance to hospitals, clinics, EMS and communities to strengthen the rural and frontier/remote health care delivery system.

## SERVICES

ORH offers provider recruitment and retention services, provider incentive programs, data and analysis about frontier/remote health, technical assistance, policy development, advocacy and information services.

## FUNDING

ORH is funded through the support of multiple federal grants, the state general fund, OHSU and various partnerships. Federal grants include the State Office of Rural Health (SORH) Grant, the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Grant and the Rural Health Care Outreach Services Grant (RHCOS) provided through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).



## MISSION

To improve the quality, availability and accessibility of health care for rural Oregonians.

## VISION

To serve as a state leader in providing resources, developing innovative strategies and cultivating collaborative partnerships to support Oregon rural communities in achieving optimal health and well-being.



State/OHSU Support	\$1,371,771
Federal Grants	\$2,356,494
SORH	\$223,410
Flex	\$1,053,488
RHCOS	\$250,000
SLRP	\$481,080
SHIP	\$348,516

## 2025 BY THE NUMBERS

4.2 MILLION

State Population  
35% rural  
2% frontier/remote  
(Claritas 2025)

25

Critical Access  
Hospitals

37

Rural and  
Frontier/Remote  
Hospitals

99

Rural Health  
Clinics

104

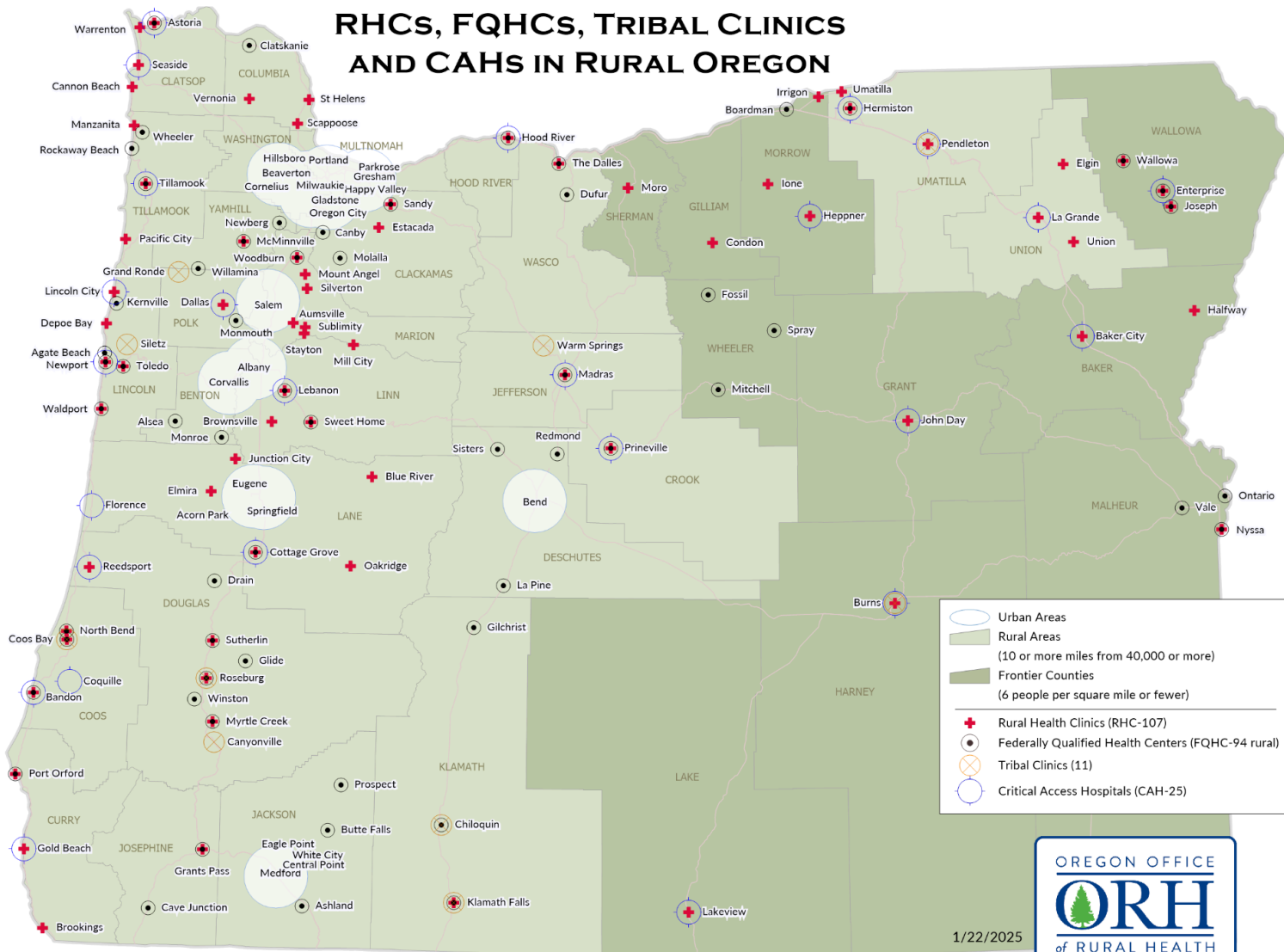
Rural and Frontier/Remote  
Transporting EMS agencies

# STATE AT A GLANCE

35%

OF OREGON'S POPULATION LIVES IN RURAL AND FRONTIER/REMOTE COMMUNITIES

## 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.npahlb.org/member-tribes](http://www.npahlb.org/member-tribes)  
 CAHs: [www.ohsu.edu/oregon-office-of-rural-health/oregons-cahs](http://www.ohsu.edu/oregon-office-of-rural-health/oregons-cahs)



## WHAT IS CONSIDERED RURAL AND FRONTIER/REMOTE?

ORH defines rural as all geographic areas in Oregon 10 or more miles from the centroid of a population center of 40,000 people or more. Frontier/remote counties are defined as those with six or fewer people per square mile. 10 of Oregon's 36 counties are frontier/remote. Find additional definitions of frontier/remote on the [ORH website](http://ORH website).



## ORH'S WORK IS ALIGNED UNDER THE FOLLOWING SERVICE AREAS:

### WORKFORCE SERVICES

#### PROVIDER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

ORH works to match health care providers (physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dentists and more) with health care organizations that provide health care services throughout rural Oregon and other underserved communities.

ORH promotes rural Oregon practice opportunities nationwide through [3RNET](#), the national rural recruitment and retention network.

ORH supports rural practice sites by offering assistance with practice site assessments, practice profile development, development of a recruitment and retention plan, facilitating the marketing of current job opportunities and profiles on 3RNet, and promoting opportunities at medical and dental schools, residencies and other health professional training programs.

#### PROVIDER INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

ORH partners with HRSA and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to manage loan repayment, loan forgiveness, tax credits and malpractice subsidy programs to incentivize the recruitment and retention of rural and frontier/remote Oregon providers.

### FIELD SERVICES

ORH provides various educational programs, resources, grants and technical assistance to Oregon's Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), local public health agencies and rural EMS. ORH partners with HRSA, FORHP, OHA and private philanthropy to support programming.

#### DATA & ANALYSIS

ORH provides data and analysis about rural and frontier/remote health to providers, elected officials, government agencies, educators and members of the public.

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

ORH offers technical assistance to rural and frontier/remote communities and health care facilities to strengthen their health care delivery systems.

#### EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND GRANTS

ORH offers education programs and mini grants to assist rural health care facilities and EMS agencies with quality improvement, compliance, emergency preparedness, workforce training and population health initiatives.

### POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADVOCACY

ORH is mandated by the Oregon Legislature to "coordinate statewide efforts for providing health care in rural areas" and to "develop enabling legislation to facilitate further development of rural health care delivery systems."

ORH works with various partners to improve health and health outcomes in rural Oregon. ORH works with various state and federal agencies to develop programs that improve access and address policies that create barriers. ORH also meets regularly with elected officials at local, state and federal levels to educate them on the challenges to and success in rural health.

### INFORMATION SERVICES

ORH believes sharing information is important to improving access to care. ORH keeps its constituents informed through the annual [Oregon Rural Health Conference](#), the annual [Forum on Rural Population Health](#), [quarterly newsletters](#), [Community Conversations](#), [ORH Policy Updates](#), professional networks and various social media platforms.

# 2025 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## LOAN FORGIVENESS

### Primary Care Loan Forgiveness Program

Multi-institutional program supporting future rural health providers.

**\$1,079,500 in awards**

**18 awardees**

### Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative

OHSU program focused on future health care providers who will practice in rural and underserved Oregon communities.

**\$2.5 million in awards**

**17 awardees**

## LOAN REPAYMENT

### Oregon Partnership State Loan Repayment Program (federal/state match)

**\$492,038 in awards**

**18 providers awarded in 2025**

### Oregon Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program

Part of the Health Care Provider Incentive Program, created to help rural and underserved communities recruit and retain high-quality behavioral health providers.

**\$2,073,997 in awards**

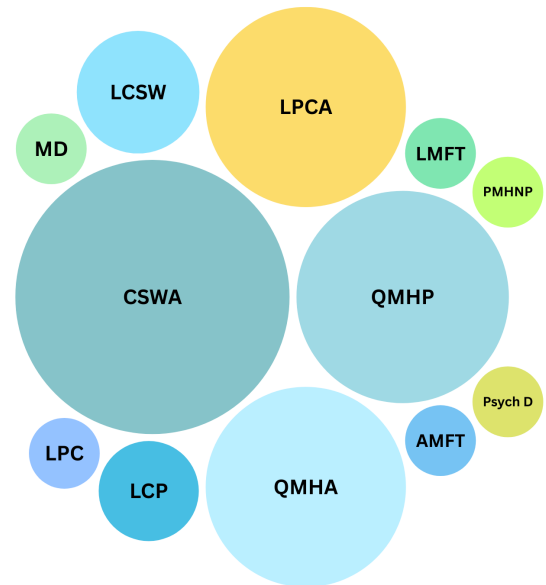
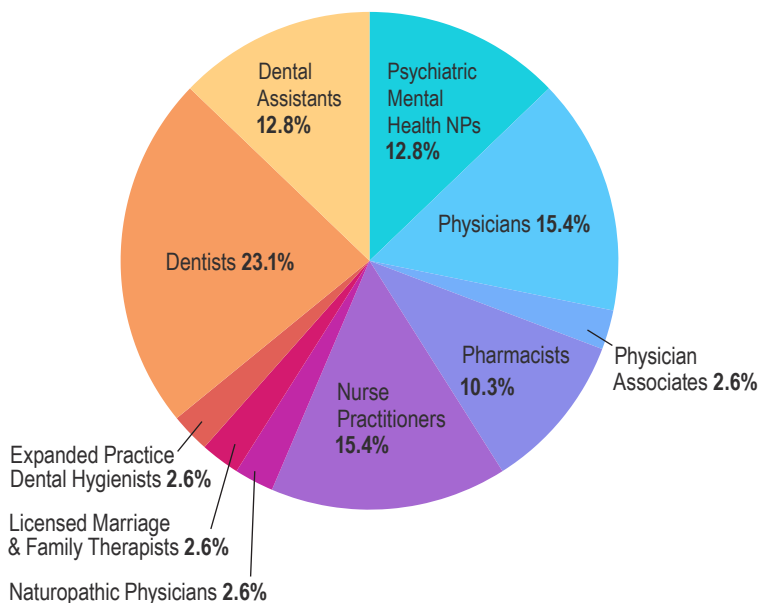
**51 providers awarded in 2025**

## LOAN REPAYMENT

### Oregon Health Care Provider Loan Repayment (state funded)

**\$2,758,455 in awards**

**40 providers awarded in 2025**



15 Clinical Social Work Associates - **CSWA**  
 3 Licensed Clinical Social Workers - **LCSW**  
 1 Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist - **LMFT**  
 1 Licensed Professional Counselor - **LPC**  
 1 Licensed Psychologist - **LCP**  
 1 Marriage and Family Therapist Associate - **AMFT**  
 1 Physician - **MD**  
 8 Professional Counselor Associates - **LPCA**  
 1 Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner - **PMHNP**  
 1 Psychologist - **Psych D**  
 8 Qualified Mental Health Professionals - **QMH**  
 9 Qualified Mental Health Associates - **QMHA**

# 2025 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## PROVIDER TAX CREDIT

Rural Provider Tax Credit and Rural Volunteer EMS Tax Credit supports retention of rural providers.

**2,204 providers**

Including:

63 CNRAs, 30 DDSs, 122 DOs, 22 DPMs, 619 NPs, 598 MDs, 23 ODs, 439 PAs and 285 EMS providers

## 2025 By The Numbers

**\$5,324,490** in loan repayment awards

**\$3,579,500** in loan forgiveness awards

**2,844** providers actively participating in incentive programs

**698** active site practices

**144** providers awarded

Find out more about recruitment and retention programs and provider incentive programs on the [ORH website](#).



## RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

ORH reached over **2,200** health professionals who had interest in practicing in rural Oregon and referred over **400** health professionals to rural Oregon practice opportunities in 2025.

ORH partners with [3RNET](#), a nationwide jobs network to support health professionals seeking careers in rural and underserved communities in Oregon.

ORH supported **54 employers**, posting their open opportunities and sourcing candidates through 3RNET.

ORH supported **28 rural health care facilities** in the **2025 Recruitment Academy**, providing **\$14,000 in scholarships** to attend. The Academy provides training for staff responsible for recruiting Oregon's health care workforce.

**65 hours** educating Oregon clinical sites on recruitment and incentive programs.

**Over 75 Oregon practice opportunities** promoted through ORH social media networks and websites.

**15 health professionals** were supported on CV development and interview prep.

ORH's full-time recruiter participated in **7** health care career-focused networking events, completed **6** in-person clinical site visits, and provided guidance and simulated interview prep for **8** health students going into the workforce.

# 2025 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS (CHWs)

### 35 CHWs initial training supported

Sponsored by grants from the Oregon Health Authority and the Roundhouse Foundation.

#### Rural Oregon CHW Network

A rural CHW listserv to brainstorm solutions to common challenges and provide resources and educational opportunities. The listserv currently has **181** active members.

#### Rural CHW Peer Meet-Up

A monthly virtual space where rural CHWs meet to share experiences, problem-solve challenges and more. There were **11** CHW peer meet up meetings in 2025.

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Rural Population Health Incubator Program

Supports population health and health programs at CAHs, RHCs, local public health departments and community-based nonprofits in partnership with [The Roundhouse Foundation](#).

**Awarded 13 grants of \$10,000 each**

#### **Forum on Rural Population Health**

This annual event focuses on issues that are important to our rural communities. See our [events page](#).



## RURAL HEALTH CLINIC (RHC)

**99 RHCs supported in rural Oregon**

**343 RHC staff participated in 32 [educational webinars](#)**

**23 Oregon RHC newsletters published**  
Register for the newsletter [here](#).

### **27 professional development scholarships awarded to RHC Leaders, including:**

- Oregon Healthcare Leaders Association memberships and conference scholarships
- Oregon Medical Group Management Association and Annual Oregon Rural Health Conference scholarships
- Certified Rural Health Certified Professional course scholarships
- National Association of RHCs Spring Institute scholarships

### **14 free in-person mock surveys provided**

These events educate and prepare RHCs to succeed in their recertification surveys.

### **9 RHCs participated in financial benchmarking and operations indicator trainings**

### **192 technical assistance encounters provided**

Addressing a diverse range of services specifically tailored to RHCs' specific needs.

## SMALL HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (SHIP)

ORH awarded **28** grants to qualified rural hospitals.

**\$311,864 in awards**

**24 CAHs and 5 small rural prospective payment hospitals (PPS)**

# 2025 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## DATA AND PUBLICATIONS

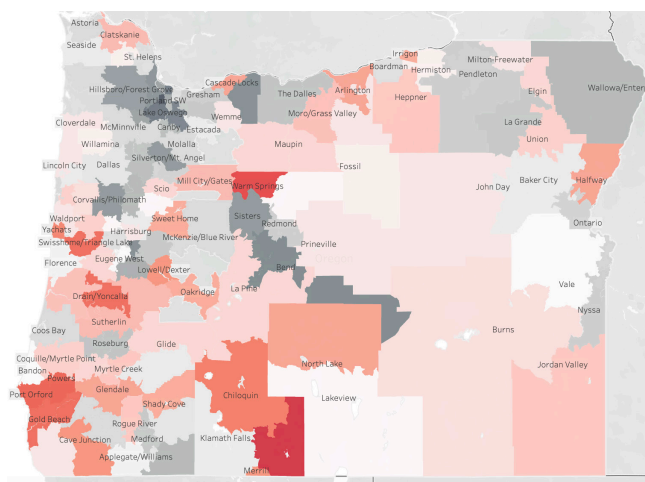
### Provided 117 organizations with a Primary Care Service Areas Report

A report designed to represent community use of health care services.

### Published the [2025 Oregon Areas of Unmet Health Care Need Report](#)

A report to measure medical underservice in rural areas.

#### [ORH data and publications](#)



[Unmet Need Final Score - Report Year: 2025](#)

## CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL (CAH) PROGRAMS

**17 CAHs were engaged in a CAH Quality 101 cohort** to educate new quality professionals on the essentials of CAH quality improvement and reporting requirements.

**10 CAHs participated in a Patient and Family Engagement (PFE) cohort** with an emphasis on social drivers of health (SDoH) and care transitions.

**2 CAHs received targeted support from Intermountain Health Care on Antimicrobial Stewardship.**

Published the FY2025 [CAH Guide to Quality Reporting Programs](#).



## CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL (CAH) PROGRAMS

**9 CAHs attended the 2025 [CAH Quality Workshop](#)**, learning best practices and strategies in quality improvement (QI), patient safety and reporting.

**12 Oregon CAH Quality Network peer meetings** for QI professionals were held.

**7 CAHs engaged in in-person regional workshops** at Lower Umpqua in Reedsport and Grande Ronde in LaGrande.

**5 CAH financial and operational improvement [webinars](#) were held.**

**9 CAH CEO peer group meetings were held.**

**6 CAH CEOs, CNOs and human resource (HR) professionals were supported in the NRHA Rural Hospital CEO, CNO and HR Certification Programs.**

**177 technical assistance encounters provided** Addressing a diverse range of services specifically tailored to CAHs' specific needs.

# 2025 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## EMS PROGRAMS



**38 rural EMS transporting agencies participated in our grant resource programs.**

**16 new rural EMTs, AEMTs and paramedics were supported with education scholarship funding.**

**33 new rural emergency medical responders (EMRs) supported were with education funding.**

**2 students supported in Community Paramedic certification education.**

**8 agencies awarded [Helping EMS in Rural Oregon \(HERO\) training grants.](#)**

**21 EMS agencies supported with an EMS billing training and peer group formation.**

**5 colleges/universities engaged in strategizing for Oregon college EMS hybrid course development.**

**52 technical assistance encounters provided**  
Addressing a diverse range of services specifically tailored to rural EMS agencies specific needs.

**43 CAH and EMS personnel participated in three joint CAH-EMS two-day emergency simulation trainings for maternal/infant emergencies.**

**36 EMS medics were educated on advanced airway management.**

[Learn more about ORHs EMS programs.](#)

## MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE

**In August 2025 ORH, in partnership with the Oregon Mobile Integrated Healthcare Coalition, ORH received a four-year federal grant from HRSA's Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program to support the development of a mobile integrated health (MIH) toolkit for rural Oregon communities and to launch a pilot MIH program in Wheeler County.**



# EDUCATION, EVENTS AND OUTREACH

## OREGON RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

In **2025**, ORH celebrated **42** years of the Oregon Rural Health Conference, the largest gathering in Oregon dedicated to finding rural solutions to rural challenges.

The Conference included:

**42 sessions**  
**67 speakers**  
**408 attendees**  
**44 sponsors**

Learn more about the [Conference](#).



## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Community Conversations is a bimonthly virtual event to bring together rural community members and partners to discuss pressing rural health topics.

2025 Community Conversations included:

**6 events**  
**15 speakers**  
**403 attendees**

Learn more about [Community Conversations](#)



## FORUM ON RURAL POPULATION HEALTH

In **2025**, ORH held the second annual Forum on Rural Population Health, an annual event focused on issues that are important to our rural communities.

The Forum included:

**29 sessions**  
**54 speakers**  
**24 sponsors**  
**200 participants**

Learn more about the [Forum](#).



## POLICY UPDATE EVENTS

ORH conducted bimonthly and then monthly Policy Update Meetings to share state and federal policy changes, and to answer questions about the impact of these changes on organizations and rural communities in Oregon.

2025 Policy Updates Included:

**17 events**  
**3,345 attendees**

Learn more about [ORH Policy Updates](#)





## Get in touch

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The Oregon Office of Rural Health has been a partner  
of Oregon Health & Science University since 1989.

## ORH Partners



### STATE

Oregon Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)  
Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS)  
Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN)  
Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS)  
Oregon Health Authority (OHA)  
Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)  
Oregon Health Care Workforce Institute (OHWI)  
Oregon Medical Association (OMA)  
Oregon Nursing Association (ONA)  
Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA)  
Oregon Rural Health Association (ORHA)  
Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network (ORPRN)  
Pacific University  
Telehealth Alliance of Oregon (TAO)  
Telligen  
Western University of Health Sciences –Comp NW



### NATIONAL

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)  
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)  
National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH)  
National Rural Health Association (NRHA)  
National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNet)