

43rd Annual Oregon Rural Health Conference

October 7-9, 2026
Riverhouse Lodge | Bend, OR



Call for Presentations: Rural Solutions for Rural Challenges

The Oregon Office of Rural Health (ORH) seeks proposals for presentations at the 43rd Annual Oregon Rural Health Conference, to be held Oct. 7 – 9, 2026 at the Riverhouse Lodge in Bend, Oregon.

The Conference's mission is to strengthen health care in rural Oregon by sharing knowledge, expertise and resources on innovations and best practices in health. The Conference's goal is to share rural solutions for rural challenges in health care.

The Conference will prioritize proposals that:

- Describe and promote collaboration between community organizations (hospitals, clinics, community-based organizations (CBOs), public health departments, etc.);
- Support rural hospitals, clinics, EMS and public health agencies in their efforts to serve their communities most effectively;
- Describe the direct impact of research on **rural** communities and tangible next steps for attendees;
- Describe an innovative program or approach; and
- Describe how to implement a specific program or approach, including one or more case studies and/or real-life examples.
- Describe innovative and effective health care education and pipeline programs.

All presentations will be 50 minutes in length and must include tangible action items for attendees and/or best practices on how to implement programs in rural communities. Please note that we will not accept proposals that sell a product or service.

We are seeking proposals focused on the following topics (although topics are not limited to this list):

- Health care policy and laws affecting the delivery of rural health care;
- Regulations, policies and innovations specific to rural public health;
- Strategies targeted to rural health clinics and the unique challenges and requirements applicable to them;
- Strategies targeted to rural hospitals and clinics focused on quality reporting and improvement (i.e., tools, resources, best practices and success stories);
- Strategies for recruiting and retaining a health care and public health workforce;
- Innovative education pathways programs to develop local health care workforces;
- Strategies for building healthy communities capable of attracting a health care workforce, including non-health care employment, schools and housing;
- Collaborations among public health organizations, health care providers and communities;
- Social drivers of health in different environments (i.e., hospitals, clinics, public health, CBOs, etc.);
- Patient experience and engagement in rural health care;

- Patient safety and best practices in rural health care;
- Women's health: reproductive health care, maternal and child health;
- LGBTQIA+ and gender-affirming care in rural Oregon;
- Health care in Tribal communities;
- Health care for veterans in rural communities;
- Health care for people with disabilities in rural communities;
- Mental and behavioral health care in rural Oregon;
- Dental health care access in rural Oregon;
- EMS and mobile integrated health in rural Oregon; and
- Emergency preparation: pandemics, climate change impacts, and natural disasters.

Proposals are due by 5 p.m. on March 30, 2026, and are to be submitted through the online form, linked below. They will be selected by May 30, 2026.

PLEASE REVIEW PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS BELOW BEFORE STARTING YOUR ONLINE SUBMISSION

Proposal Requirements

- The number of speakers for your presentation;
- Information needed for each speaker:
 - Name;
 - Email address;
 - Phone number;
 - Position title;
 - Credentials (i.e., PhD, MPH, MD, DO, PA, MSW, BA, MA, etc.), if applicable;
 - Organization; and
 - Short bio for each speaker (maximum 600 characters, including spaces);
- Presentation title;
- Presentation description (maximum 1000 characters, including spaces);
- Presentation date and time availability:
 - Available anytime;
 - Available the afternoon of Oct. 7;
 - Available the morning of Oct. 8;
 - Available the afternoon of Oct. 8; and/or
 - Available the morning of Oct. 9.

Consider the following:

- We are grateful to all speakers whose organizations can cover their travel costs, and you will have a chance to indicate that in the submission.
- If reimbursement is needed, ORH policy is as follows: we will issue a \$300 stipend to **one** speaker per presentation toward travel expenses. We are not in a position to offer reimbursement to additional speakers **or to OHSU employees**. We do make an exception for speakers from out of state; we will also reimburse such a speaker for plane fare and transportation to and from the Redmond airport.
- The first speaker's \$399 registration fee is complimentary; the second speaker will receive a \$100 discount, for a fee of \$299; the third speaker's registration is the full \$399.

Please direct any content questions to Robert Duehmig at duehmigr@ohsu.edu and any logistical or process questions to Laura Potter at potterla@ohsu.edu.

Click [here](#) to submit your proposal!