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Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Rural Health Coordinating Council Update



Disclaimer

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Agenda

- Welcome
- Background
- RHCC Advisory Scope and Role
 - Discussion and Feedback
- Immediate Impact Awards Update
- Catalyst Awards Overview



Picture of Wallowa Mtns by Rick Vetter



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RHTP Background

CMS announced \$50B in awards to all 50 states

- On 12/29/25, CMS announced all 50 states will receive awards
- In 2026, first-year awards average \$200M, ranging \$147-281M
- **Oregon is receiving \$197.3M in 2026**
 - OHA submitted a revised budget on January 30, 2026
 - CMS approved the revised budget on February 18, 2026, and has partially lifted restrictions on the funds
 - **CMS unrestricted all funds on March 20, 2026**
- If approved for a similar amount in subsequent years, Oregon will receive an estimated \$1B over the five-year grant period



RHCC Advisory Scope and Role

RHCC Scope and Role

- **General Purpose:**

- Advisory body for RHTP
- Increase transparency of RHTP planning and implementation through public meetings
- Rely on rural expertise of RHCC members to inform direction of RHTP
- Create a pathway for ongoing public engagement
- Strengthen partnerships (state, local, regional)
- Utilize existing RHCC to meet CMS requirements

Conflicts of Interest

- What if an RHCC member could directly benefit from advising the Rural Health Transformation Program?

"A public official is met with a conflict of interest when, acting in their official capacity, they participate in making a decision or recommendation or taking an action which would (actual conflict of interest) or could (potential conflict of interest) result in a financial benefit or detriment for the public official, a relative of the public official, or any business with which the public official or their relative is associated."

Source: Oregon Government Ethics Commission - https://www.oregon.gov/ogec/about-us/Documents/Commission%20Newsletters/2022_Vol_3_Issue_4_Fall%20Edition.pdf

Conflicts of Interest

Disclosing all conflicts of interest will be important as RHCC members advise the Oregon Health Authority

Appointed officials must notify their appointing authority, in writing, of the nature of the conflict and request that authority dispose of the matter giving rise to the conflict. The appointing authority shall designate an alternate to dispose of the matter or direct the official to dispose of it in a manner specified by the appointing authority. [ORS 244.120(1)(c)]

Source: Oregon Government Ethics Commission - https://www.oregon.gov/ogec/about-us/Documents/Commission%20Newsletters/2022_Vol_3_Issue_4_Fall%20Edition.pdf

Engaging with the RHCC

- OHA will provide **regular updates** to the RHCC about RHTP development
- Hold **iterative discussions** with RHCC about how members will advise RHTP
- RHCC could recommend to OHA the **principles** that OHA should use in determining which projects receive Phase 2 funding
- RHCC could ensure RHTP-funded projects are **coordinated among and across communities**
- RHCC could create a summary of **communities' input** about what is and is not working well regarding RHTP
- If requested, a RHCC member present to the **Oregon Health Policy Board (OHPB)**

Discussion and Feedback

- Initial reactions to the activities & RHCC's advisory role?
 - Expand or remove any of these?
- Feedback and reactions on our engagement so far?
- What are you most concerned about, and do you have any ideas to help us address those?



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Immediate Impact Awards

Overview

Immediate Impact Awards

- **Award Details:** Direct Awards – there is no application process
- **Goals:**
 - Stabilize critical services through direct investments in qualifying rural hospitals and rural health clinics
 - Secure subsequent year funding by meeting Year 1 CMS targets
 - Distribute funding primarily through existing agreements that align with public input
- **Project Selection:** Projects identified from public comments and partner engagements
 - Candidates demonstrate broad impact across Oregon while addressing specialized gaps and niche services
 - Clear connection and ability to achieve Year 1 CMS targets
 - OHA is already in touch with organizations under consideration

Transformation Awards

- Each of the state's 35 [rural hospitals](#) can receive direct grants, with a total of \$35 million expected to be provided this year.
- Each rural health clinic can receive direct grants, with a total of \$10 million expected to be provided this year. Oregon currently has 100 certified [rural health clinics](#).
- Each of the state's 33 [local public health authorities](#) – most of which are county health departments – can receive funding, with a total of \$5 million expected to be provided this year.

Immediate Impact Awards – Wave 1

Oregon's first Immediate Impact Awards are expected to support the following rural-focused projects.

- A clinic-based community health worker senior visiting model will be organized by [Columbia Gorge Health Council](#).
- Naloxone access will be increased in rural Oregon through a partnership between [Alano Club of Portland](#), [Comagine Health](#) and [OHA Addiction Treatment Recovery & Prevention Services](#).
- Chronic disease management training for community health workers and caregivers will be coordinated by [Oregon Rural Practice-based Network](#).
- Remote education about adverse childhood event education will be given to healthcare providers by [Oregon Rural Practice-based Network](#) through the [Oregon ECHO Network](#).
- A brain health promotion and dementia initiative will be led by [Portland State University](#).
- A school nursing access pilot will involve the [Oregon School Nurses Association](#) and [North Central](#), [Southern Oregon](#) and [Wallowa County](#) educational service districts.
- A mobile obstetrics simulation unit will be created by [Oregon Perinatal Collaborative](#).
- Up to 12 emergency medical services simulations will be led by Healthcare Safety Solutions.
- An obstetric addiction advice line will be made available for clinicians 24 hours a day, seven days a week by [Oregon Health & Science University](#)'s Department of Maternal & Fetal Medicine and Department of Addiction.
- A regional, school-based substance use and mental health early intervention model will involve [Mosaic Community Health](#), [Sisters School District](#), [Enterprise Middle/High School](#) and [Grant County Education Service District](#), all of which will be supported by the [Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission](#), an independent state agency.
- Nurse home visiting will be expanded by [Family Connects Oregon](#), a statewide public health program that is managed by OHA in partnership with local public health authorities.
- A new medical assistant education and career opportunity program for North Coast high school students will be developed by [Northwest Regional Education Service District](#), [Clatsop Community College](#), [Seaside School District](#) and [Providence Seaside Hospital](#).

Discussion

- Questions on Immediate Impact Awards?
- RHCC – assist in building framework for Budget Year 2?



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Catalyst Awards Overview

Oregon's Phase 1 (FY26 – FY27)

Initial phase will focus on three pathways for implementation.

- 1. Catalyst Awards:** Through a Request-for-Grant-Proposal (RFGP) process, organizations will be expected to apply across initiatives for ready-to-go projects that can be implemented within the first two years of the RHT Program.
- 2. Immediate Impact:** Direct awards (non-competitive) for a select set of aligned opportunities identified by the state (not through an application process). Strategic investments will be made to independent rural hospitals, critical access hospitals, and rural health clinics to stabilize essential services and build readiness for Phase 2.
- 3. Tribal Initiative:** Direct awards (non-competitive) to the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon under the RHTP Tribal set-aside.
- 4. Regional Planning and Innovation:** Partner with the Office of Rural Health to facilitate regional convenings and technical assistance to eligible entities as they form or further develop their regional partnerships, shared infrastructure plans, and build capacity to apply for Phase 2 funding.

Catalyst Awards – Request for Grant Proposals

Goal:

- To elevate and support community driven “ready-to-go” projects for timely impact and to effectively utilize available funding

Approach:

- Limited number of grant awards will be available (80 awards max)
- Within that, there will be some smaller awards reserved for up to 30 projects between \$200,000 and \$499,000

Timeline*:

- **Opens:** April 10, 2026
- **Proposal Submission Period:** 46 Days
- **Closes:** May 26, 2026 at 3pm PST
- **Awards Announced:** Mid 2026

**Note: All dates are tentative pending CMS budget and OHA procurement finalization process*

Catalyst Awards – RFGP Overview



Goal:

To elevate and support community driven “ready-to-go” projects for timely impact and to effectively utilize available funding



Approach:

Limited number of grant awards will be available (80 awards max)



Timeline:

Opened: April 10
Q&A Submission Period Closes: May 14 at 3PM
Proposal Submission Period: 46 Days
Closes: May 26 at 3PM PST/4PM MST
Awards Announced: Mid 2026

Note: **Final selection of the projects** to receive grant awards under this RFGP will be made by OHA utilizing the scores and justifications provided by reviewers in the Catalyst Scoring Rubric and the recommended awardees highlighted by the Catalyst Award Selection Panel.

Proposer Information

Proposal Limitations:

- 1 proposal per lead Organization; same Organization may be named as a sub-awardee in other proposals
- A proposal may include up to 3 projects
- Each project must select 1 primary outcome (and at least 1 associated target)
- *Minimum project* amount per budget period is \$200,000
- *Maximum proposal* amount per budget period is \$5,000,000

Proposer Requirement:

- Organizations must have a physical location or provide in-person services/opportunities in Oregon
- Be an eligible entity as outlined in the RFGP

Proposal Submission:

- All proposers must submit an RFGP to be considered for funding, regardless of involvement in past Intent to Apply or other public surveys
- Collaborative proposals are welcomed but one eligible entity needs to be the lead proposer/fiduciary

Project Eligibility

- Projects must serve rural Oregon (outside 10-mile radius of a 40,000+ population center)
- Align activities with at least one RHTP outcome
- Address at least one population of focus:
 - Maternal and child health
 - Individuals with co-occurring BH conditions
 - Individuals aging in place
 - Individuals with chronic disease
- Be ready to implement within 1–2 months of award
- Ensure all activities fall within CMS Allowable Uses of Funds
- Participate in reporting & monitoring as required

Eligible Organization Types

Organization types eligible to submit proposals include but is not limited to:

Health Care Providers

- Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)
- Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHCs)
- Hospitals & Hospital Systems
- Behavioral Health Clinics
- Dental Clinics
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Organizations

Academic & Workforce Partners

- Universities
- Community Colleges
- Education Service Districts
- School Districts

Public Sector & Federally Recognized Tribes

- Local Public Health Authorities
- Local Governments
- Federally Recognized Tribes

Community, Nonprofit, & System Partners

- Social Service & Community Based Organizations
- Professional Associations
- Non-Profit Advocacy Organizations
- Coalitions
- Coordinated Care Organizations



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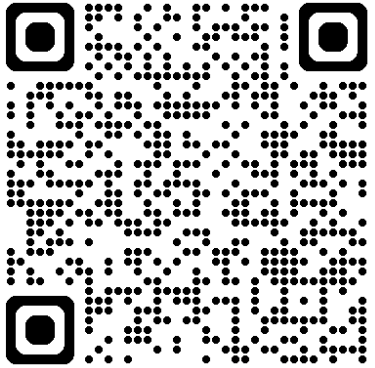
Catalyst Awards Discussion



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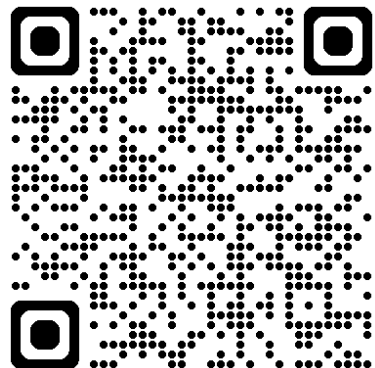
Communication

Newsletter



- Visit our home page:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/hpa/hp/pages/rural-health-transformation.aspx>

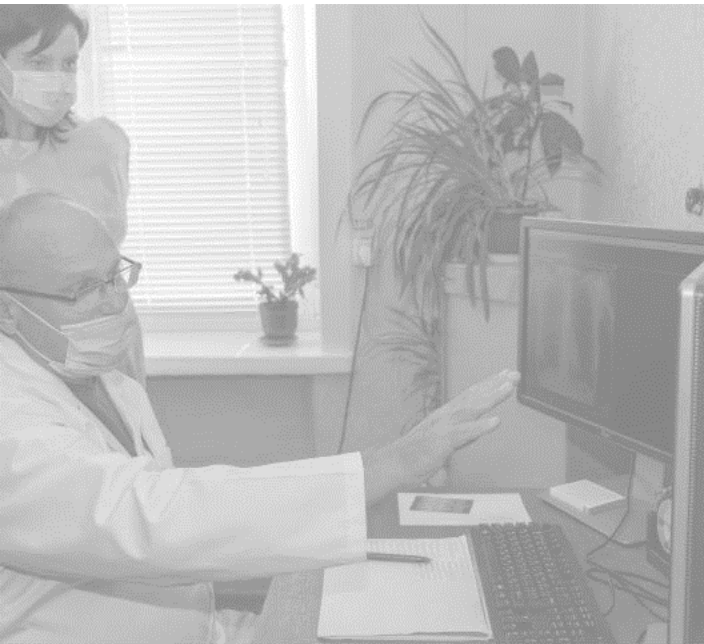


- Sign up for bimonthly newsletter:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORHA/subscriber/new?topic_id=ORHA_209

Next Communications

- **May 15th RHCC Meeting**
 - Send out SOW beforehand and confirm with members
- **Next Catalyst Awards RFGP Webinar Date:**
 - Date: TBD, Early June
- Look out for upcoming program communication on the home page and in our RHTTP newsletter



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Thank You

Website: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/HP/Pages/rural-health-transformation.aspx?>

Email: rhtp@oha.oregon.gov