

Rural Health Transformation Program & ORH's Role

The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) was established through the 2025 federal budget reconciliation package, H.R. 1. While the legislation reduces federal Medicaid spending over the next decade, it also created a dedicated \$50 billion investment in rural healthcare nationwide over five years.

While not designed to offset the impacts of H.R. 1 program cuts, the RHTP will provide critical support to rural communities in strengthening healthcare access, capacity and sustainability during a period of significant change in the healthcare landscape. As rural hospitals, clinics, EMS agencies and community organizations navigate an evolving healthcare landscape, regional collaboration and strategic planning will be essential in ensuring the investment has the greatest possible impact.

ORH's Role

The Oregon Office of Rural Health (ORH) has partnered with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to support implementation of the RHTP by:

- Administering direct awards to rural hospitals and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) in partnership with Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), ensuring these dollars are directed to and benefit rural communities;
- Facilitating regional convenings across Oregon;
- Providing technical assistance to organizations that are planning or implementing rural health projects; and
- Connecting organizations and communities with technical support and subject matter expertise.

The regional convenings bring partners together to identify shared priorities, strengthen relationships, coordinate regional strategies and develop grant applications for future RHTP funding opportunities. By the end of Year 2, each region will identify priorities that can inform future RHTP grant applications to OHA.

ORH will also provide regular updates to the Rural Health Coordinating Council (RHCC), the official advisory body of Oregon's RHTP. The RHCC was established by the Oregon legislature in 1979 at the same time as ORH. Its purpose has historically been to advise ORH in carrying out its statutory duties.

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