OREGON OFFICE of RURAL HEALTH

43rd Annual Oregon
Rural Health Conference
October 7- 9, 2026

OPPORTUNITY Just knock.

OHSU

2026 Oregon Rural Health Conference Presentation Slides

CHWS IMPACT HEALTHCARE UTILIZATION IN THE COLUMBIA GORGE

OREGON RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2026



COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

TODAY'S FACILITATORS



ROSIE STRANGE

Pronouns: Ewa / They

- Learning and Cultural Development Manager of CGHC
- Enrolled Tribal Member of CTWS
- Community Activist
- Parent



ELIZABETH PEREZ

Pronouns: She / Her

- B2H CHW Team Supervisor
- 1st Generation Mexican Immigrant
- BA Community Health Education
- Mom



JUNE RECKMANN

Pronouns: She / Her

- South Wasco Community Health Worker
- Human Rights Consultant
- Animal Lover

COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL



LAND ACTION STATEMENT

WE WANT TO TAKE TIME TO ACKNOWLEDGE THIS LAND WE GATHER ON TODAY.

WAY TO SUPPORT INDIGENOUS LAND MOVEMENTS PROTECTING THE NCHI'WANA:

PROTECT PUSHPAM
SACRED LAND PROTECTION MOVEMENT NEAR GOLDENDALE, WA

protect pushpum

NO UNDERWATER POWER LINE
CASCADE RENEWABLE TRANSMISSION WANTS TO BURY A 100-MILE, 400-KILOVOLT ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION CABLE UNDER THE COLUMBIA RIVER FROM THE DALLES TO PORTLAND.

HOW WILL YOU HONOR THE ORIGINAL CARETAKERS OF THIS LAND?

WE ARE STILL HERE
LAND BACK

COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

DINAMINCA



WE VALUE POPULAR EDUCATION!

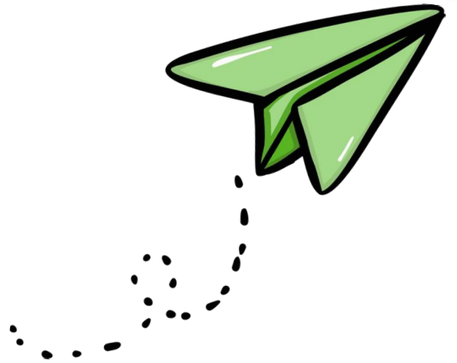
TAKE A HEALTHY RISK AND JOIN US FOR BEAR, SALMON, MOSQUITO!

HAVE FUN!

COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

AGENDA

- Dinámica
- Learning Objectives
- About Our Organization
- Programs of Columbia Gorge Health Council
  - Bridges to Health
  - South Wasco Alliance
  - Áqwłtpwisha Chúushna
  - CGHC Learning Collaborative
- Understanding Our Data and Funding
- Collaboration, Partnerships & Successes in Our Work
- Thank You, Connect with US!



COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

LEARNING OBJECTIVES



HOW CHWS POSITIVELY IMPACT PATIENT OUTCOMES





DEVELOP UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO SUPPORT DIVERSE FRONTLINE THW TEAMS

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY COLLABORATION FOR THW WORKFORCE



UNDERSTANDING OF DATA COLLECTION FOR FUNDING AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ALIGNMENT

CHWS IMPACT HEALTHCARE COST SAVING



COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

The Columbia Gorge Health Council is a nonprofit committed to improving health and social outcomes for all people in our community.

We collaborate with other organizations to advance health equity in The Gorge by identifying and removing barriers that keep people from getting the quality care they need.

We are led by people with lived experience, ensuring our services truly reflect community needs.



WE ENVISION A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERYONE HAS EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING

COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL





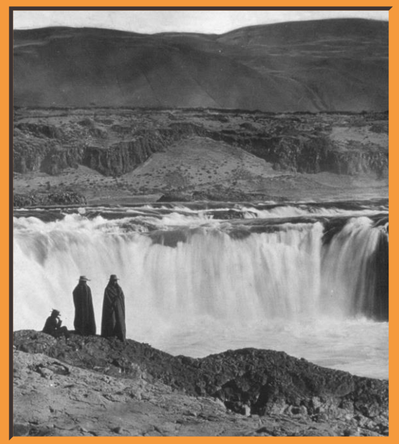


BRIDGES TO HEALTH

- ADDRESS BARRIERS TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING
- IMPROVE HEALTH QUALITY, ACCESS, AND EQUITY
- GROW A SKILLED NETWORK OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL







COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

ÁQWŁTPWISHA CHÚUSHNA

HEALING THE WATER, A NATIVE SUPPORT



A COMMUNITY LED MUTUAL AID PROPANE BANK TO SERVE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY MEMBERS ALONG THE NCHI'WANA IN NEED OF PROPANE SUPPORT FOR HEATING AND COOKING.

- 12+ COMMUNITY PARTNERS COLLABORATIVELY SUPPORTING.
- SUPPORTING WEEKLY OUTREACH TO FISHING IN LIEU SITES.
- PROVIDING SAFETY EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION AND SUPPLIES.
- 2025-2026 SEASON DISTRIBUTED 1000 GALLONS OF PROPANE TO ELDERS AND FAMILIES IN NEED.

PARTNERSHIP WITH GORGE NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMMING

MAINTAINED RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND SUPPORTED NATIVE PROGRAMMING EVENTS INCLUDING:

- ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN BACK TO SCHOOL YOUTH EVENT.
- GNAC STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING.
- POINT IN TIME HOUSELESS OUTREACH PLANNING AND COORDINATION.
- SUPPORTED ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT FOR YOUTH.

SUPPORTED ANNUAL HOLIDAY MEAL OUTREACH.





SUPPORTING LAND BACK & CULTURAL PRORAMMING

SUPPORTED CONVERSATIONS ABOUT LAND BACK AND THE NEED FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ON THE NCHI'WANA TO HAVE THEIR OWN SPACE.

SUPPORTED COORDINATION AROUND THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OREGON SPECIFICALLY ST. PAUL'S IN THE DALLES OFFERING NATIVE COMMUNITY THEIR CHURCH SPACE TO SUPPORT LAND BACK WORK.

CO-ORGANIZED OUR COMMUNITY TMNA EVENT FEB 2025 TO OPEN THE SPACE TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

CGHC LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

LEARNING COLLABORATIVE
COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL
BUILDING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING

JOINED HUB PARTNERSHIP WITH NEON AND MID-WILLAMETTE COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL IN FALL 2024 TO EXPAND THW TRAINING THROUGHOUT RURAL OREGON

CENTERING LIVED EXPERIENCE FACILITATORS

FACILITATING OHA APPROVED CHW TRAINING

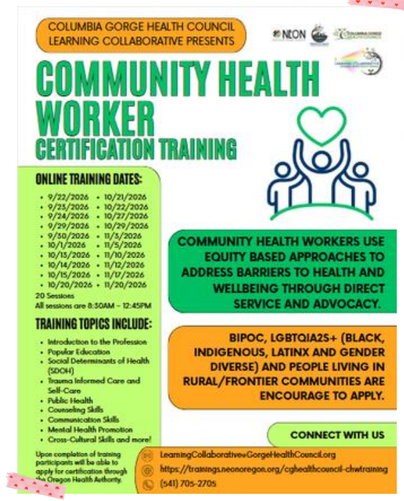
SUPPORTED 45 PARTICIPANTS COMPLETING TRANING, 15 PARTICIPANTS IN CURRENT COHORT

4TH CHW COHORT UNDERWAY

PARTNERED IN THW CARES PROJECT, THE RECEIPIENT OF A $2.3 MILLION RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION GRANT AWARD FROM OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY IN JULY 2026



OUR 1ST CHW COHORT





1ST DAY COHORT 4

OUR FACILIATION TEAM



KATY



ELIZABETH



LISSETTE



KIT



ROSIE

BRIDGES TO HEALTH CHW AT DESCHUTES RIM HEALTH CLINIC

BRINGING CONNECTION AND SERVICES TO FRONTIER COMMUNITIES



“I’m a client of June and I just wanted to tell the boss that she did a good job for me. You know I got turned down by lots of places and she kept trying and helped me out and she is still there for me. So, I just want to give her an “attaboy” and say I appreciate her.”

PROVIDING DOOR TO DOOR OUTREACH IN SHANIKO AND ANTELOPE

SUPPORTING FAMILIES WITH ACCESS TO FOOD, HEALTH INSURANCE, COMPLICATED PAPERWORK, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES, HEALTHCARE AND SO MUCH MORE

COORDINATING WITH THE DESCHUTES RIM HEALTH CLINIC AS PART OF THEIR INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM

CULTIVATING TRUSTED RELATIONSHIPS

HELPING TO WRANGLE ESCAPED LIVESTOCK

DESCHUTES RIM HEALTH CLINIC

SOUTH WASCO ALLIANCE

BRIDGES TO HEALTH
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO RESOURCES
CONECTANDO A LAS PERSONAS CON RECURSOS

CGHC Direct Service Programs

FUNDING & REIMBURSEMENT

ESTABLISHED IN 2016 TO ADDRESS PRIORITIES IN THE COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

BRAIDED FUNDING:

- PACIFIC SOURCE CCO'S SHARED FUNDING
- COMMUNITY BASED INITIATIVES
- LOCAL, STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS
- PROGRAMMATIC PAYMENTS
- HEALTH RELATED SOCIAL NEEDS

REIMBURSEMENT HUB:

- CREATED SHARED DOCUMENTATION HUB USING ACTIVATECARE

B2H HUB

CONTRACTS WITH OHA & CCO

APPLY FOR GRANTS

↓

COLLECT DATA FOR

REIMBURSEMENT AND

GRANT REPORTING

↓

MAKE PAYMENTS

TO AGENCIES WHO

EMPLOY B2H CHWS

ActivateCare

COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

ActivateCare

2025 Top 10 Needs Identified	Total
Client Incidental Request/Funds to support health and wellbeing	482
Housing - Long term	261
Transportation	235
Food	227
Documentation/Paperwork/Legal	154
Utilities/Phone	144
Medical/Dental (Including DHS custody)	125
Emergency Housing	82
Behavioral Health	74
Employment	70

Quality Incentive Metric

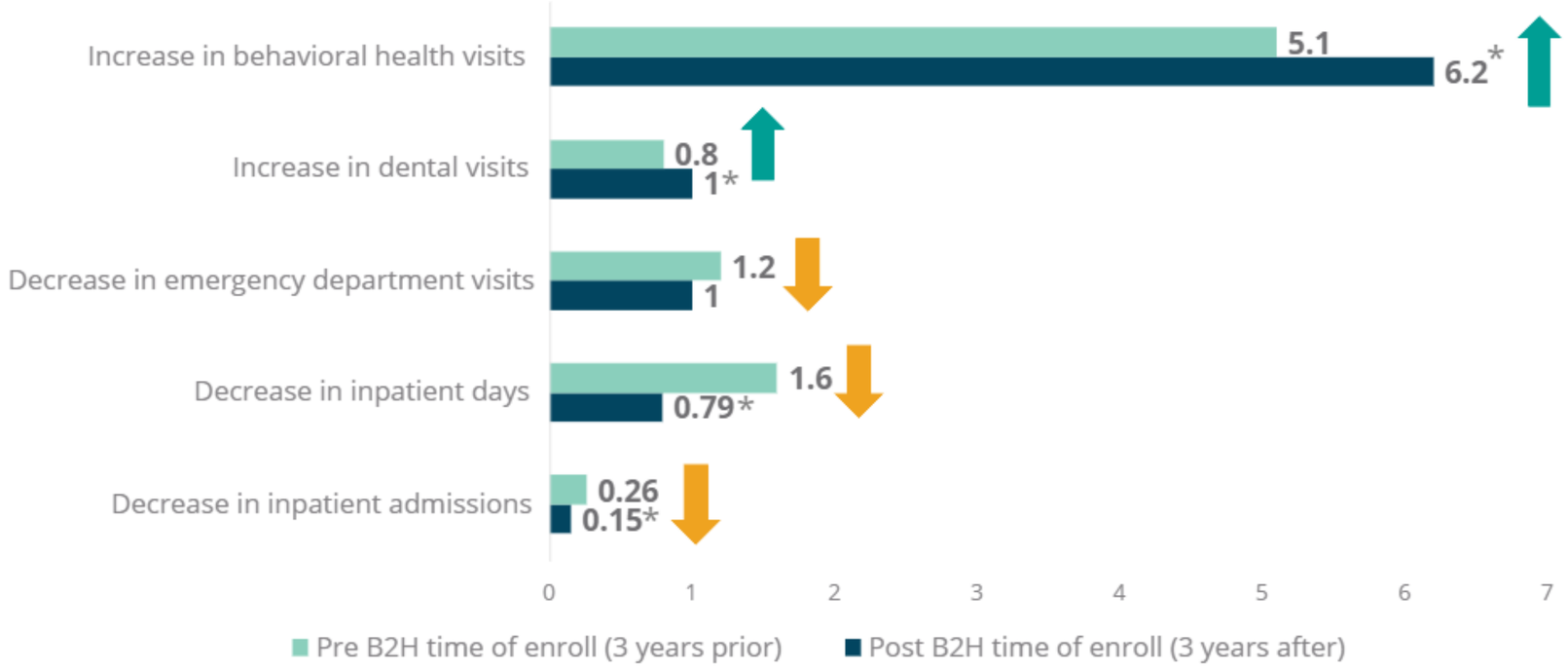


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B2H CLIENTS MORE LIKELY TO USE HEALTH CARE APPROPRIATELY AFTER PARTICIPATING IN B2H PROGRAM COMPARED TO BEFORE PARTICIPATION

DIFFERENCE IN HEALTHCARE UTILIZATION RATES OF NUMBER PER MEMBER PER YEAR

> **CHWS HELP RESOLVE ISSUES SO THAT OUR PATIENTS CAN MANAGE THEIR OWN CARE BETTER.**
>
> ***SOURCE: PARTNER AGENCY INTERVIEWS & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER FOCUS GROUPS 2023***



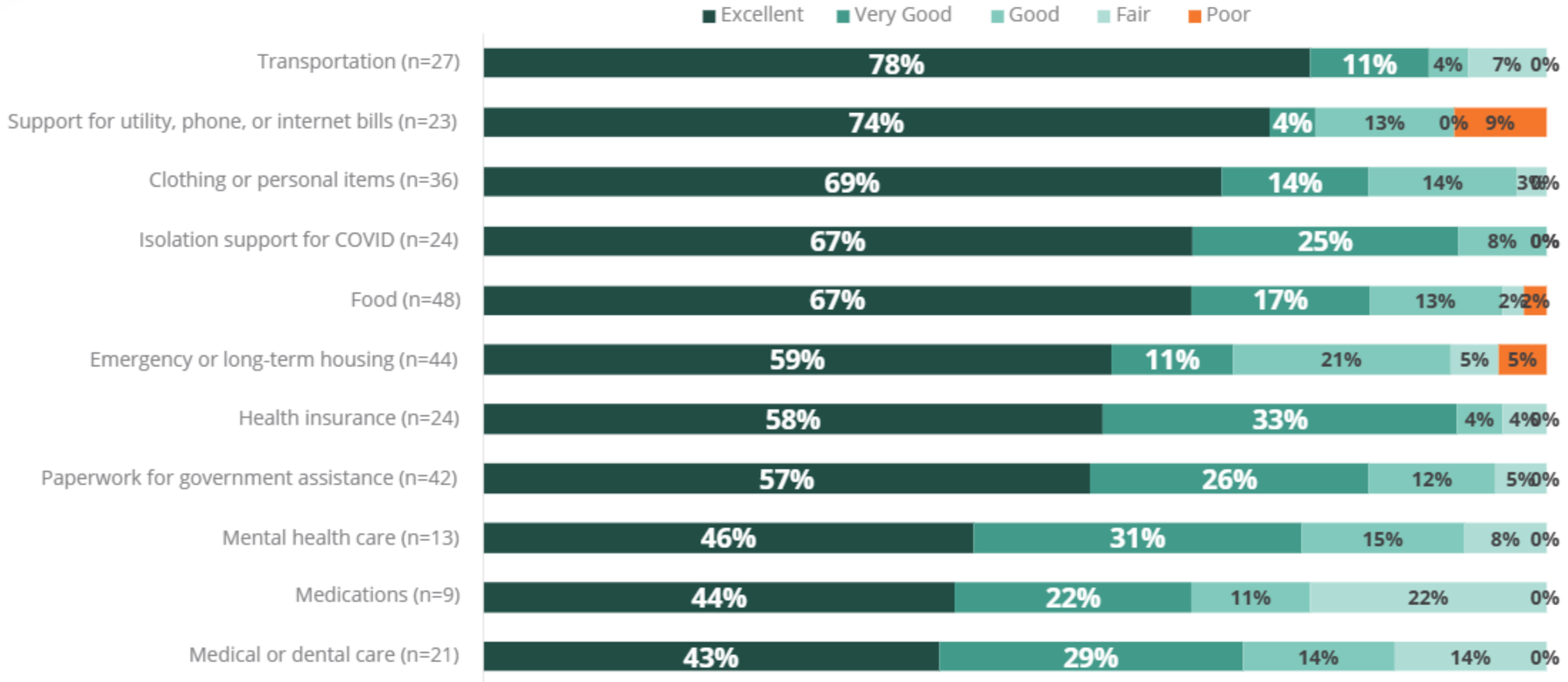
Source: PacificSource CCO/Medicaid members enrolled 36 months before and up to 36 months after enrollment in the Bridges to Health Program as recorded on claims incurred and paid by November 2022.

* = Statistically Significant at $p \leq .05$

COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

CLIENT FEEDBACK PROVES OUR SUCCESS

FOR CLIENTS WHO RECEIVED SUPPORTS, A MAJORITY RATED THEIR NEEDS WERE MET AS EXCELLENT OR VERY GOOD



Source: B2H Client Survey 2023
Whites and males were statistically significant more likely at p≥.05 to report their needs were met.
No statistically significant differences at p ≥ .05 among age categories or disability status.

> **BRIDGES TO HEALTH HELPED ME FIND MYSELF AGAIN AND TO BE BETTER FOR MY DAUGHTER.**
>
> ***SOURCE: B2H CLIENT SURVEY 2023***

COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION & CASE MANAGEMENT

ROOTS AND REACH

- 15+ COMMUNITY PARTNERS JOIN US WEEKLY WITH THE GOAL TO MAXIMIZE SUPPORT AND DECREASE DUPLICATION OF SERVICES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE CASES

CHW COLLABORATIVE

- A SPACE FOR THW/CHWS WITH EXPERIENCED & NEW TO THE WORKFORCE TO SHARE & LEARN TOGETHER
- SUPPORT IN MAINTAINING STATE CERTIFICATION
- TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES & COMMUNITY RESOURCE SHARING
- COACHING FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN IN THE FIELD FOR 20+ YEARS



TOGETHER WE GROW

COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

COLUMBIA GORGE COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Mid-Columbia Community Action Council



GORGE RECOVERY
Recovery Rooted in Community



Mid-Columbia Housing Authority
Autoridad de Vivienda de Mid-Columbia



BRIDGES TO HEALTH
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO RESOURCES
CONECTANDO A LAS PERSONAS CON RECURSOS



NCH'I WANA
HOUSING



The Next Door



MID-COLUMBIA CENTER for LIVING



HELPING HANDS AGAINST VIOLENCE



LEAD



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SHELTER
Y.E.S.
Serving the youth of North Central Oregon



ORTC
Oregon Recovery & Treatment Centers



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF Human Services
Aging and People with Disabilities



PacificSource HEALTH PLANS



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF Human Services



BRIDGES TO HEALTH
ÁQWŁTPWISHA CHÚUSHNA
HEALING THE WATER, A NATIVE SUPPORT



One Community Health



WASHINGTON GORGE ACTION PROGRAMS



St. Vincent de Paul
THE DALLES, OREGON USA
ASSISTANCE SHELTER HOPE



Mid-Columbia Houseless Collaborative
Shelter Services Housing Advocacy



PROVIDENCE
Hood River Memorial Hospital



HAVEN
Serving Victims of Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault





OHDC
OREGON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

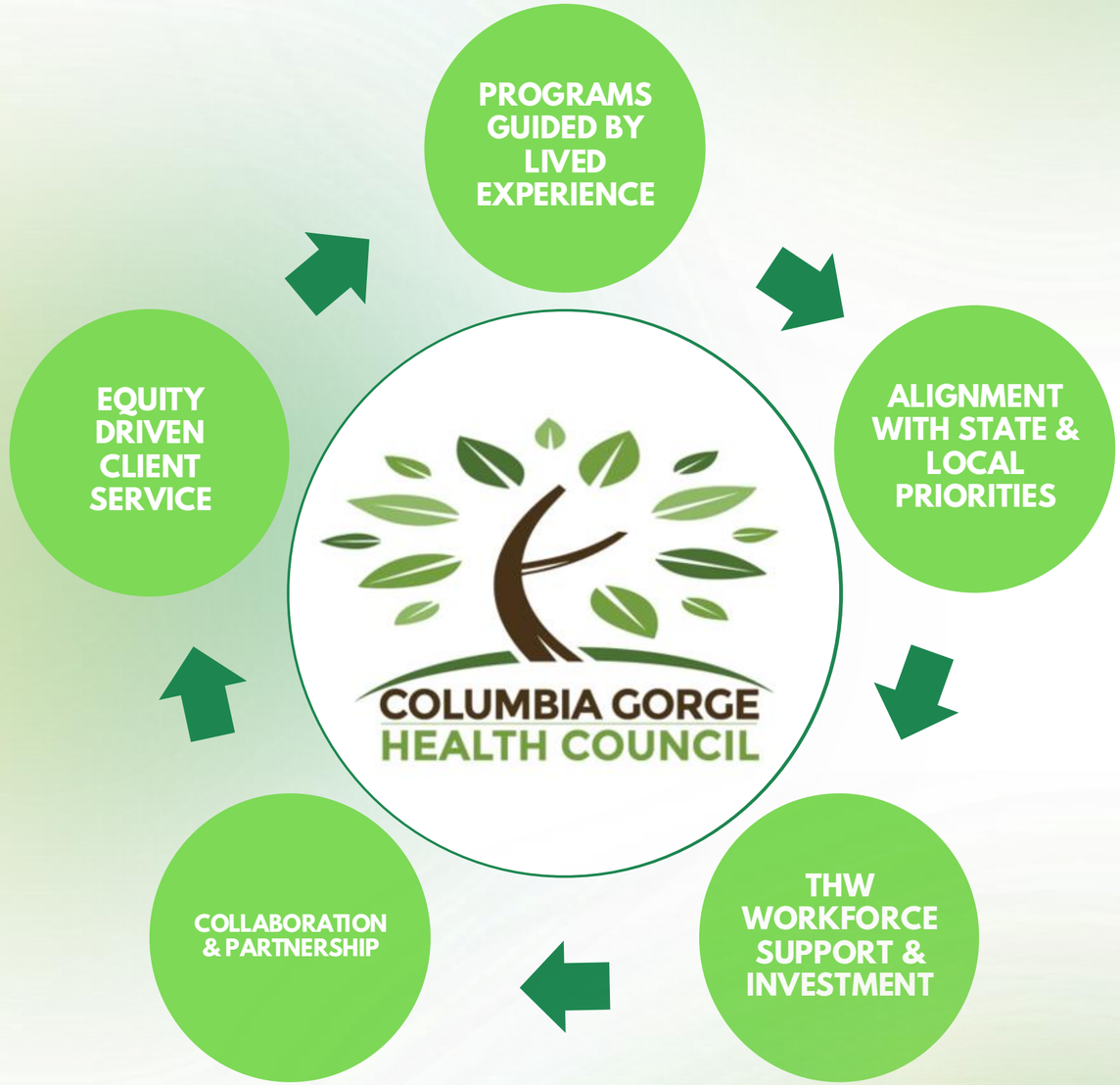


COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

THE RECIPE FOR OUR SUCCESS

- VALUE CHWS ROOTED IN LIVED EXPERIENCE
- WE ARE ADAPTIVE TO A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT
- WE PROVIDE EQUITIBLE PAY AND CONTINUING EDUCATION
- WE VALUE CROSS SECTOR RELATIONSHIPS
- CENTER EQUITY INFORMED COLLABORATIVE WORK





WE VALUE FEEDBACK!



PLEASE PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THIS SESSION

CONNECT WITH US ABOUT:

- PROGRAMMING
- TRAINING
- CONSULTING

HTTPS://FORMS.CLOUD.MICROSOFT/R/JX9SPLJNE7

THANK YOU!

COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

CONNECT WITH US



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FOR YOUR ENGAGEMENT