

**Oregon Health Authority  
Rural Hospital Transformation**

---

On February 17th, the Human Services Subcommittee voted to recommend acknowledging receipt of a report from the Oregon Health Authority on recommendations for investments in rural hospital transformation and sustainability.

As required by budget note, the Oregon Health Authority engaged stakeholders in a workgroup. Members represented 13 small or rural hospitals, the Oregon Association of Hospital and Health Systems, the Office of Rural Health at OHSU, and OHA staff. Four recommendations were adopted by the group, at a total cost of \$10 million over three years as directed by the budget note.

Recommendations include the following:

- Establish transitional post-acute care programs in lower volume critical access hospitals. High acuity patients would be transferred from large hospitals to their local hospitals for post-acute care, freeing up space in the large hospitals as well as supporting the small or rural hospitals.
- Support the Graduate Medical Education Consortium to increase residency positions in rural Oregon.
- Establish virtual clinics in rural communities with acute primary care shortages, in order to extend service hours and broaden geographic reach.
- Provide education for executive leaders within all rural healthcare setting on population health and best practices.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends acknowledging receipt of the report.