

TED FERRIOLI
District 30



Senate Republican Leader

OREGON STATE SENATE
SALEM, OR
97301

May 11, 2017

Senator Richard Devlin
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE, S-213
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Nancy Nathanson
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE, H-276
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs,

I am writing to you in support of a proposal submitted for consideration of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Capital Construction.

The proposal is for the Deschutes Rim Clinic Foundation in Maupin, OR. They are seeking to raise funds in order to expand capacity in their facility in order to attract more qualified providers and serve the needs of residents and visitors of Southern Wasco County. They are asking for \$1.25 million for their capital campaign.

They currently have a 2,400 square foot modular building and they wish to build a neighboring 8,000 square foot facility. This will give them more space for expansion to serve their ever increasing patient population.

Deschutes Rim Clinic Foundation has experienced an unprecedented increase in new patients at a rate of 1-3 patients per day. With only one provider scheduling 3-4 weeks out for immediate care appointments, this clinic is seeking to grow to serve a very emergent need in the community.

This project is essential for providing health care in a remote area that is seeing a great increase in demand. We need to do what we can to ensure that patients are not left in a health care desert.

Sincerely,

Ted Ferrioli
Senate Republican Leader
Senate District 30



Please return the completed Request Form to:
Amanda Beitel, Principal Legislative (Bonds) Analyst
amanda.beitel@oregonlegislature.gov
(503) 986-1506

[SUBMIT FORM](#)

State of Oregon 2017-19 Bond Financing Request

Project Description

White River Health District dba Deschutes Rim Health Clinic in Maupin, Oregon, intends to supplement capacity at our aging 2400 square foot modular building, which is unsuitable for expansion, with a new 8000 square foot wood frame building. We must replace and expand the building because the ever-increasing demand for patient care currently exceeds our physical capacity to provide this care. Over the past year we have seen an unprecedented steady increase of 1-3 new patients a day. With the new building we will meet the demand for patient care and increase our services to include immediate and urgent, pediatric, behavioral health and dental care by increasing access to care. Our clinic is small with no room to grow or add additional providers. With the daily new patient requests, our single provider is able to attend only to only their immediate care needs, seeing them within 3-4 weeks. The new building will accommodate two full time medical providers, full time behavioral health, telemedicine, full time dental services, and space for specialty services.

Our health district covers 750 square miles and includes 2600 residents, which expands to an additional 20,000 visitors from late spring through late fall. As a result we provide immediate care and lab services for patients who have medical providers elsewhere. Our diverse population of patients include veterans, Medicare, Medicaid, commercial and the under-insured and uninsured. The closest urgent care is 85 miles away, and the closest pharmacy or emergency rooms are 45 miles away.

We currently are performing a feasibility study to identify regional and local community philanthropy. We have surveyed just 20% of the identified potential sources, with 100% affirming in-kind or cash pledges for a total of up to \$90,000 in feasibility. Our Board has committed \$50,000 toward the capital campaign and we own the adjacent building site which is valued at \$146,000. The total identified potential support thus far is \$286,000.

Project Cost

Total project cost: \$ 2,500,000

Bonding amount requested this biennium: \$ 1,250,000

Bonding amount needed for entire project: \$ 1,250,000

Bond type (General Obligation/Lottery): Lottery Bond - Economic Development

Matching funds (Amount/Source): \$ 196,000

Community Pledges: \$90,000

Project Contact

Name of entity that will receive funds: Deschutes Rim Clinic Foundation for the clinic

Type of entity: Health Clinic

Name of contact person: Sharon Denison DeHart

Email address of contact person: sharondehart@deschutesrimclinic.org

Phone number of contact person: 541-705-7610

We Care Campaign! Deschutes Rim Clinic Foundation

Maupin, Oregon

White River Health District dba Deschutes Rim Health Clinic

WHO WE ARE: White River Health District is a nonprofit local government, formed in 2005 as a Special District of Oregon to provide medical services to South Wasco County, a rural area encompassing 750 square miles of Wasco County. Deschutes Rim Health Clinic opened for business in Maupin in September 2007, providing medical and behavioral health services to the residents and 20,000 seasonal visitors to our area. Our current provider is a Physician Assistant who has been caring full-time for 600 area residents and numerous area visitors for a total of 2,600 patient visits a year. She has provided this care for the past 11 years, and continues to do so with occasional part time help from her supervising physician and out-of-the-area providers. This provider also took on the role of the District Manager in 2008 to keep the clinic open, and has led the Clinic to become a Tier 3 Patient Centered Primary Care Home and was accepted this year as one of Oregon's CPC Plus Medicare Program Sites. We have a 5-member Board of Directors who are all volunteer community members.

OUR MISSION: We Care. Our community based health center partners with you for your health and well-being, regardless of your ability to pay.

OUR VISION: We will provide recognized, optimal resources for comprehensive healthcare in South Wasco County.

PROJECT SCOPE: The "We Care Campaign!" has a capital campaign goal of \$2,500,000. Deschutes Rim Clinic plans to supplement capacity at our aging 2,400 square foot modular building (780 square feet of which is rented to local dentist who is retiring soon), by adding an adjacent 8,000 square foot wood frame building, since the modular unit is unsuitable for expansion. The current building is too small to support additional staff for our ever-increasing patient population. After the new building is occupied, the current building will be rehabbed, separately from this project, to support the new facility with storage, laundry, etc.

OUR CHALLENGE: We need more physical space to accommodate more providers so that we can continue to care for the residents and visitors of South Wasco County. Over the past year we have seen an unprecedented steady increase of 1-3 new patients a day, and our single provider is scheduling 3-4 weeks out for immediate care appointments if the same day appointment slots are filled. Our current population is about 35% Medicare, 30% Medicaid, 25% Commercial, and the remaining 10% are either under-insured or un-insured. Many of these patients are heart patients, diabetics or mental health patients requiring increased frequency and time to provide their care.

Currently our front office does not offer privacy for patient discussions, our lab doubles as a storage room, and we lack arctic entries for patient comfort and cost savings to our significant electric bill. Staff does not have a separate kitchen and break area, and we lack meeting space for board meetings, which are currently held in our waiting room by carving out time from the patient schedule.

In 2016 Maupin was identified as an "Area of Unmet Health Care Need in Rural Oregon" by the Oregon Office of Rural Health, particularly due to the travel time to the nearest hospital and above average hospitalization for preventable conditions. Our service area is federally recognized as having a shortage of health care providers and as lacking the resources to meet resident medical needs.

OUR SOLUTION: Our goal is build an adjacent building so we have capacity to increase our primary care services to two full-time providers, increase our behavioral health services to full-time, and offer full-time dental services. The new building will allow us to have five exam rooms (currently have two); add a full procedure room for urgent care; add a private office for behavioral health services; and have two dental operatories.

WHERE WE ARE NOW: Our floor plan design has been a combined effort of staff over the past three years, with the services of Banton Engineering out of Sisters for architectural and engineering support. The building site is deeded to the Health District and is valued at \$146,000. Our board has committed \$50,000 to the campaign. We have formed a 501(3)c foundation to assist with tax deductible donations. Westby Associates, Inc. is conducting a feasibilty study to help us identify community philanthropic support. As of May 2017, all 20 completed interviews affirmed cash and in-kind support of up to \$90,000; 80 more interviews are expected which should yield at least \$270,000 of local support. We anticipate \$750,000 of support from regional foundations.

OUR REQUEST: We will require an investment of public funds in order to leverage successful completion of our \$2,500,000 capital campaign. We are asking the State of Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction for \$ 1,250,000, which represents 50% of our total capital campaign of \$2,500,000.

PROJECT DIRECTOR: Sharon Denison DeHart, PA-C /District Manager: 541-705-7610,
sharondehart@deschutesrimclinic.org





BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

511 Washington St, Ste. 101 • The Dalles, OR 97058
p: [541] 506-2520 • f: [541] 506-2551 • www.co.wasco.or.us

Pioneering pathways to prosperity.

State of Oregon
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Re: Public Funds Investment for Deschutes Rim Clinic Expansion – We Care Campaign

Wasco County's population is evenly divided between The Dalles, our urban center, and the rural areas of our 2,395 square mile county. While The Dalles is home to Mid-Columbia Medical Center and a number of health-care clinics and providers; the more rural portion of the county, with a geographically dispersed population, is woefully underserved for health-care. The rural population not only includes a significant aging population with the associated health-care needs, but they have seasonal population surges associated with agriculture and recreation. These population surges strain an already overburdened system. In 2016, Maupin was identified as an "area of Unmet Health Care Need in Rural Oregon" by the Oregon Office of Rural Health.

To their credit, Deschutes Rim and their 5-member volunteer board have stepped up to meet the needs of their patients. To keep the clinic open, their central provider has taken on the role of District Manager and led the Clinic to become a Tier 3 Patient Centered Primary Care Home; this year the Clinic was accepted as one of Oregon's CPC Plus Medicare Program Sites. All of these efforts provide a solid foundation but they are not enough. The "We Care Campaign!" seeks to raise \$2.5 million to supplement capacity, supporting facility expansion and additional staff to serve a patient population that continues to grow.

Deschutes Rim Clinic's proven track record supports my appeal to you for serious consideration of their request to meet them halfway with \$1.25 million toward their target goal.

Sincerely,

Rod L. Runyon
Chair
Wasco County Board of Commissioners



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State of Oregon
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Capital Construction

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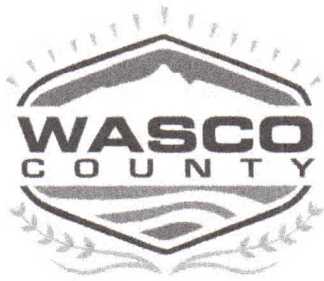
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Deschutes Rim Clinic's proven track record supports my appeal to you for serious consideration of their request to meet them halfway with \$1.25 million toward their target goal.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Kramer
Vice-Chair
Wasco County Board of Commissioners



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Deschutes Rim Clinic's proven track record supports my appeal to you for serious consideration of their request to meet them halfway with \$1.25 million toward their target goal.

Sincerely,

Scott C. Hege
County Commissioner
Wasco County Board of Commissioners



CITY OF MAUPIN

P.O. Box 308
408 Deschutes Ave
Maupin, OR 97037

Tel: 541-395-2698
fax: 541-395-2499
e-mail: maupincity@centurytel.net

I am excited that the Deschutes Rim Health Clinic will get a chance to expand. I have personally been a patient there since they opened and am always happy with the care I receive and the professionalism of the staff. My dentist also shares some space within the building.

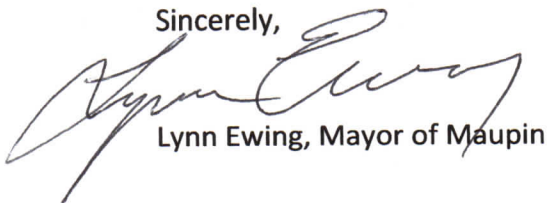
Although the clinic has been a tremendous asset to our community, the current facility does not come close to being able to meet the demand. Any other medical facility is over 40 miles away (one way) in The Dalles, which can be difficult for many area residents.

To be able to add space for one or more additional providers and be better equipped to handle urgent care would be a huge boon to all of South Wasco County. The City of Maupin strongly supports the We Care! Campaign currently underway and would be very happy if the State of Oregon could do so as well.

Maupin may be small, but we are a growing, forward-thinking community. Our high speed broadband project should be complete by the end of summer, providing the clinic, as well as all of our citizens and businesses with better access to Internet services not available before. For the clinic, this will mean access to tele-medicine, which could greatly enhance their services. Having the expanded space will better enable them to take advantage of this technology.

I strongly urge the Joint Ways and Means Committee and the State of Oregon to support this great plan to expand available health care in rural Oregon.

Sincerely,



Lynn Ewing, Mayor of Maupin

White River Health District dba



*1605 George Jackson Road / P. O. Box 219
Maupin, OR 97073-0219
541-395-2911 / 541-395-2912
www.deschutesrimclinic.org*

May 5, 2017

To: Members of the State of Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

From: White River Health District Board of Directors

We, the Board of Directors for White River Health District dba Deschutes Rim Health Clinic and Deschutes Rim Clinic Foundation, are writing in support of the We Care! Campaign by Deschutes Rim Clinic for the expansion of space and services for our ever-growing population in South Wasco County.

As a volunteer board of directors, all of whom live and work in South Wasco County, we see the need for additional providers to assist our current providers in caring for our residents, as well as the increased need for immediate and urgent care services in the area due to the visitors to South Wasco County during the summer months.

Our current provider has been the only one providing full time services for the past eleven years, and with our increase in expansion and Medicaid populations and, now with the new Medicare CPC Plus program, we need to recruit more providers. Our current space is not suitable for more than one provider. The new building would provide space for two full time providers and part time providers, as well as space for expansion of services.

We currently provide telehealth services by giving up one of the two exam rooms, and with the new fiber optics coming to South Wasco County, we will be able to use telehealth in addition to seeing patients in person. We also donate space once a month for the WIC program to see patients here, also by giving up our exam rooms for that day. With the new building we will have space for both telehealth and other visiting services without loss of patient space for our residents.

South Wasco County's continued economic growth is dependent upon having the medical clinic continue to operate here.

We strongly urge the Committee's support of this We Care! Campaign to expand the space and services of Deschutes Rim Clinic.

Sincerely,


Dennis Beechler, Chairman of the Board

On behalf of the White River Health District Board of Directors.

CENTRAL OREGON
INDEPENDENT PRACTICE ASSOCIATION

Central Oregon Independent
Practice Association
1230 NE 3rd Street, Suite A-200
Bend Oregon 97701
(541) 585-2590
Fax (541) 585-2591

May 10, 2017

To Members of the State of Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on
Capital Construction:

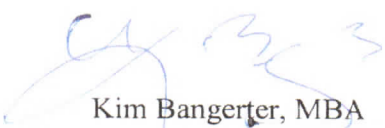
Central Oregon Independent Practice Association (COIPA) is pleased to offer this letter of support for one of our member clinics, Deschutes Rim Health Clinic for funding to support a capital campaign. The initiative to expand the facility and services is led by Sharon DeHart, PA-C, COIPA's President Elect.

COIPA represents and contracts for the largest group of providers in Central Oregon and the Columbia Gorge regions. Our organization has over 700 physician and practitioner members in 117 clinics, throughout a 40,000 square mile geographic area east of the Cascade mountain range. Our providers serve ten largely rural counties in these regions, including Harney, Grant, Lake, Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson, Wheeler, Wasco, Sherman, and Hood River.

Deschutes Rim Health Clinic has been a trusted member of the Columbia Gorge health care community for a decade. They have a history of serving the South Wasco County region as a Tier 3 Patient Centered Primary Care Home and most recently one of Oregon's CPC Plus Medicare Program Sites. COIPA is pleased to provide our strong endorsement for Sharon DeHart and her team's bid to meet the medical needs through expanded services.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me at (541) 585-2590 with any questions or to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Kim Bangerter, MBA
Executive Director
Central Oregon Independent Practice Association

White River Health District dba Deschutes Rim Health Clinic, EIN 93-1318131, and
Deschutes Rim Clinic Foundation, EIN 46-5424290
1605 George Jackson Road, PO Box 219, Maupin, OR 97037-0219
www.deschutesrimclinic.org
Project Director: Sharon Denison DeHart, 541-705-7610



Good Afternoon Honorable Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee.

My name is Sharon Denison DeHart. I am a Physician Assistant and the District Manager for White River Health District's Deschutes Rim Clinic in Maupin. I am here on behalf of our We Care! building Campaign.

We are a small medical clinic serving 750 square miles of rural South Wasco County. Located an hour south of the Columbia River, with a population center of 500 which swells to 10 thousand plus in the summer.

Our goal is to replace our 2400sf modular building, which we share with a local dentist, with an 8200sf wood constructed building.

Two years ago Elgin Health District, another small rural area, testified before this committee and they are having their ribbon cutting tomorrow morning thanks to a funding request approved through this process.

We are similar to Elgin in that we are a rural health district, serving many underserved clients in a building that is grossly undersized for our ever increasing population.

Our patient population consists of 35% Medicare, 30% Medicaid, 25% Commercial and 10% either under-insured or un-insured. Our patients must drive 90 miles round trip to get prescriptions, 180 miles round trip to the closest urgent care.

We are requesting 1.25 million dollars to help build a new clinic that will serve all clients in our District for the next 20 plus years. This larger clinic will provide space for two full time medical providers, full time dental services, urgent care services, and a helipad for emergency transports of 1-2 hours.

Our current feasibility study has a target of 100 respondents, and to date, every respondent has indicated potential philanthropic support with a range up to \$784,000. With over 60 interviews still to be scheduled we will comfortably meet a legislative match to our request today.

Maupin is an area of 'unmet healthcare needs' by state and federal designation, and South Wasco County's rapidly growing economic base depends on locally provided medical services.

Please support our request for 1.25 million dollars for our We Care! Campaign to build a new medical clinic in Maupin as we are fast becoming a preferred destination point in Oregon.