

SB 1552:

Strengthening Oregon's Behavioral Health System by Leveraging Federal Support to Sustain Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics

AOCMHP

In 2016, Oregon was selected as one of an elite group of eight states poised to transform access to mental health and addiction services through the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) program. This program has drawn down millions of dollars in federal funds, supporting Oregon's 12 CCBHCs in making significant strides toward curbing the opioid epidemic, reducing suicide, and bringing thousands of Oregonians with untreated mental illness or addiction into care—all while improving collaboration with primary care partners and strengthening our state's place as a national leader in integrated care.

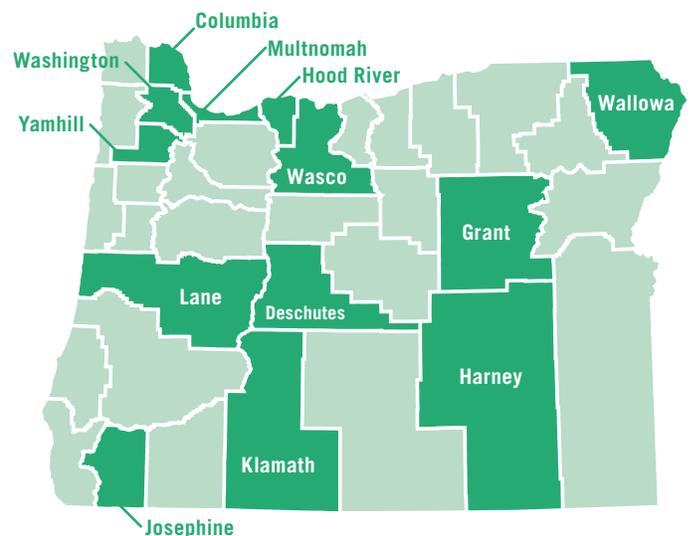
The federal government, led by Oregon's congressional delegation, has repeatedly acted to extend the program beyond the original period for which Oregon appropriated funding. Now, additional funding is needed for Oregon to continue building on this successful model. **By passing SB 1552 and making an investment of \$15 million, our state can draw down \$62 million in federal funds and avert a looming loss of services.**

Why CCBHCs?

The CCBHC initiative is a national movement to define, improve and standardize care. It aligns with and advances Oregon's progress toward value-based purchasing and fully integrated care. All CCBHCs must meet standards regarding the scope

of evidence-based services, staffing, and timeliness of access that are considered the gold standard for high-quality behavioral health care delivery. CCBHCs' activities emphasize 24/7 crisis response (including mobile crisis teams), care coordination, and collaboration with hospitals and law enforcement to address individuals living with the most complex and severe needs. In addition to federal requirements, Oregon requires all CCBHCs to provide 20 hours of on-site primary care directly or through partnership with a federally qualified health center.

The model works because it provides clinics with funding tied to expanding services, bringing clients with unmet needs into treatment, and meeting quality reporting requirements. **Importantly, Oregon receives an enhanced federal match rate for services provided by CCBHCs, generating a four-to-one return on its investment.**



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

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What have CCBHCs achieved?

Since launching, CCBHCs in Oregon have dramatically increased access to mental health and addiction treatment, developed programs for veterans, expanded capacity to address the opioid crisis and established innovative partnerships with law enforcement and hospitals. Among their accomplishments:

- Served 61,881 Oregonians, a 15 percent increase in the number of clients reached;
- Embedded primary care in behavioral health centers;
- Expanded access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction;
- Improved health outcomes through innovative programs and practices to proactively support individuals at risk for developing chronic conditions;
- Decreased emergency department use and alleviated the burden on state psychiatric hospitals;
- Created jobs and increased their workforce by hiring both behavioral and physical health providers who are typically difficult to recruit, such as psychiatrists and prescribers;
- Sharply reduced wait times for services, allowing clients to be served faster and improving their engagement in care.

This is real progress. But it's only the beginning, and the work must continue.

Reducing the Cost of State Psychiatric Hospitalization

Through efforts to divert people who are unable to aid and assist in their own defense from the Oregon State Hospital (OSH) and provide better care coordination, Klamath Basin Behavioral Health has saved OSH costs of \$1.7 million.

Reducing the Cost of Emergency Department Utilization

Through a data-driven effort to identify and intervene early with patients at high risk of emergency department (ED) utilization, Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare has generated \$1.65 million in savings from reduced ED visits.

Why is additional funding needed?

Oregon's congressional delegation has led the way in enacting multiple federal extensions of the CCBHC initiative, allowing CCBHCs to continue their work well beyond the two-year period for which the Oregon legislature initially appropriated funds. Now, additional funding is needed to secure continuation of the program and support our state's evaluation efforts for the remainder of the biennium. An appropriation of \$15 million in state funds will secure \$62 million in matching federal funds.

Without these funds, Oregon's CCBHCs will be forced to scale back services, turn people away from care, and lay off staff. **In short, much of the progress CCBHCs have made in addressing the opioid and suicide crises while working to reduce hospitalizations and emergency department visits will be lost.**

Passing SB 1552 will give Oregon the opportunity to continue leveraging additional federal financial support and sustain the valuable infrastructure built over the past two years.



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