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RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION



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Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

June 2026
Legislative Days



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Alternate Format

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge.

Contact Oregon Rural Health Transformation at rhthp@oha.oregon.gov or 971-446-0946 (voice/text). We accept all relay calls.

Agenda

- Brief Rural Health Transformation Fund background
- Where Oregon is today
 - Work completed so far
 - Ongoing developments
- Upcoming for 2026



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Rural Health Transformation Program Background

Background

- The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) was created by H.R. 1, the federal budget reconciliation bill, on July 4, 2025.
 - About \$15 billion federal funding cuts from Oregon's public programs
 - Also established a one-time, five-year RHTP, which makes funding available to states for health-related activities supporting rural communities and rural health system transformation
- **Federal funding through RHTP is not intended to offset H.R. 1 Medicaid cuts.**
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is charged with administering the program as a cooperative agreement.

CMS announced \$50B in awards to all 50 states

- Oregon submitted its application to CMS on November 4, 2025
- CMS announced awards on December 29, 2025
- **Oregon is receiving \$197.3M in 2026 for Budget Year 1**
 - OHA submitted a revised budget on January 30, 2026
 - CMS approved the revised budget on February 18, 2026, and unrestricted all funds on March 19, 2026
- If approved for a similar amount in subsequent years, Oregon will receive an estimated \$1B over the five-year grant period

CMS Uses of Funds

States must commit to using funds for three or more of the health-related activities below:

1. Promote chronic disease management
2. Pay health care providers
3. Promote consumer-facing tech for chronic disease management
4. Train and assist rural hospitals in adopting technology-enabled solutions
5. Recruit and retain clinical workforce in rural areas with 5-year service commitments
6. Provide IT support to improve efficiency, cybersecurity, and patient outcomes
7. Help rural communities right-size delivery systems
8. Expand access to opioid, substance use, and mental health treatment
9. Develop innovative care models, including value-based and alternative payment models
10. Invest in rural health care facility infrastructure
11. Foster and strengthen strategic partnerships between local and regional partners

Oregon's five initiatives collectively cover all eleven CMS-approved uses of funds

Oregon's Five Initiatives

Regional Partnerships & System Transformation	Healthy Communities & Prevention	Workforce Capacity & Resilience	Technology & Data Modernization	Tribal Initiative
Focus on building rural regional networks and shared services to accelerate long-term sustainable strategies	Focus on scaling successful delivery models and creating new health access points to rural counties	Focus on developing a broad workforce from training to professional development programs	Focus on expanding and connecting rural health systems to needed technologies and data infrastructure	Focus on supporting the Tribes with improving health access and outcomes
Example Use of Funds: - Regional convenings & collaboratives - Hub-and-spoke models - Investment in Critical Access Hospitals - Learning collaboratives - Shared infrastructure, workforce, data - Maternity care coalitions - EMS modernization - Standby Capacity Payments	Example Use of Funds: - Expanding access points - Social health services - Behavioral health integration - Non-traditional models of care (e.g., digital tools and mobile vans) - Chronic disease prevention	Example Use of Funds: - Rural residencies and fellowships - Rural k-12 pathway programs - Tele-mentoring and e-consults - Training and certification of non-physician providers - Recruitment incentives and family assistance	Example Use of Funds: - Health IT system investments - AI-enabled tech solutions - Community-information exchange & closed-loop referrals - Cybersecurity - Technical assistance for IT implementation	Example Use of Funds: - Strengthen Tribal Health Systems - Facility & Infrastructure - Behavioral health expansion "Grow Your Own" workforce programs - Consumer-facing tech tools for managing chronic disease - IT support and EHR upgrades



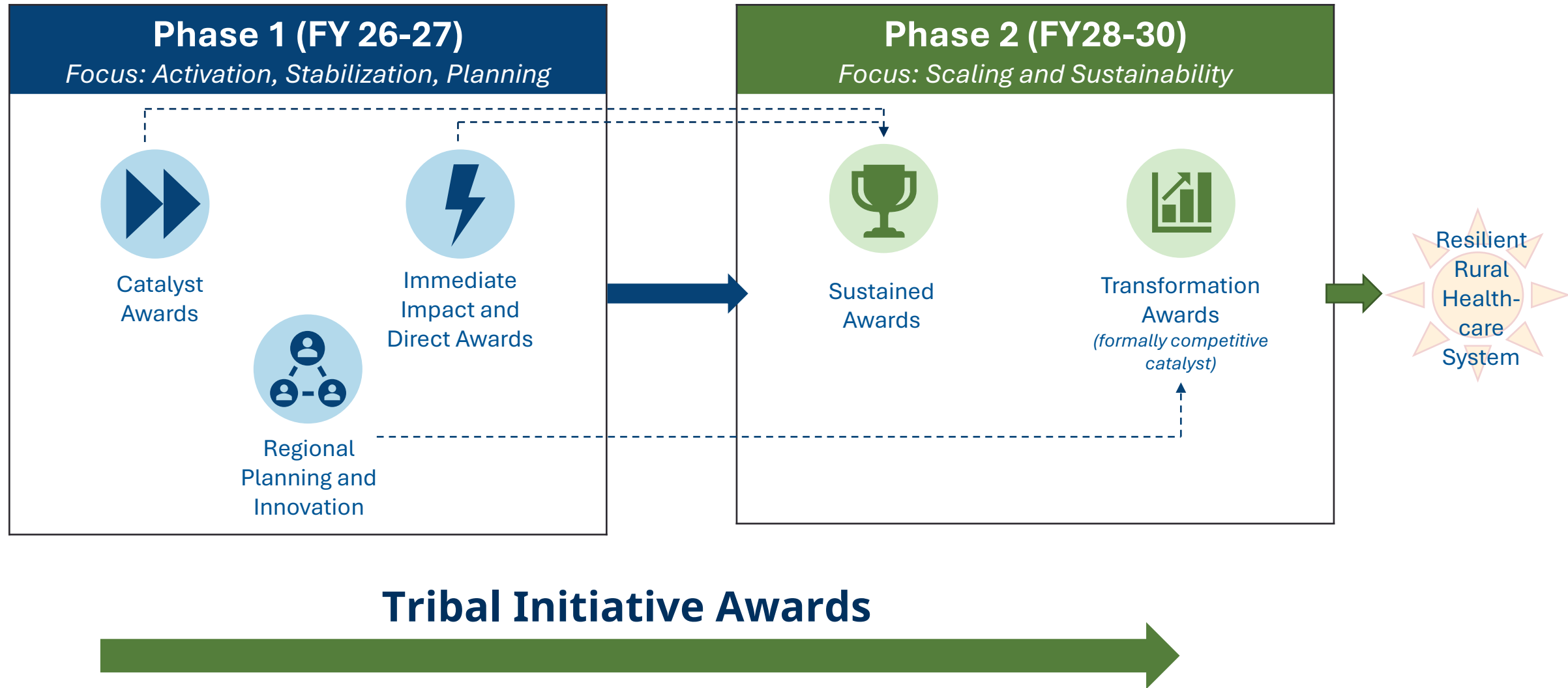
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Oregon's Work to Date

Oregon's Rural Health Transformation Journey



Catalyst Awards Milestones

- Catalyst Awards funding stream
 - OHA launched a Request for Grant Proposals on April 10, less than one month after CMS unrestricted Oregon's funds.
 - The RFGP closed on May 26. Proposals are under review as we speak.
 - Estimated 353 organizations submitted proposals for approximately 583 projects
 - OHA intends to award up to 80 organizations for approximately \$80M
 - OHA intends to send notices of awards in July so organizations can begin implementing their projects immediately.

Immediate Impact Awards Milestones

- Direct "Transformation Fund" grant awards offered to ALL Rural Health Clinics, Rural Hospitals, and Local Public Health Authorities
- Immediate Impact Awards (IIA) Announced
 - Supporting multiple behavioral health projects, including SUD/ODU services and others
 - Other projects include home visiting for seniors, chronic disease management training, school-based nursing pilot, and more
 - Immediate Impact Awards were chosen specifically to demonstrate Oregon's success in reaching certain milestones by September. This will put us in the best position for future year funding.
- Additional Immediate Impact awards will be finalized pending CMS approval

Regional Planning and Innovation Milestones

- Opportunities via Catalyst Awards to apply for this type of funding
- OHA partnering with OHSU Office of Rural Health to support regional convenings and technical assistance
- This category of funding will expand over time to encompass additional strategic, sustainable investments that support regional transformation

Tribal Initiative Awards Milestones

- **Award Details:** Direct Awards to the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon
- **Goals:** Implement and enhance projects that align with both the RHTP requirements and each individual Tribe's priorities and goals
- **Milestones:**
 - 11% of Oregon's total award is set aside for the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon under the Tribal Initiative, across all five years of RHTP
 - Award amounts have been determined collectively by the Tribes
 - Each Tribe has determined its own projects in line with RHTP goals and the framework set forth in the Tribal Initiative in Oregon's RHTP application
 - Notices of Intent to Award have been sent for all approved Tribal Initiative budgets and plans

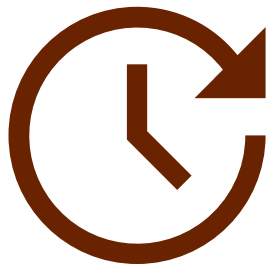
Main takeaways



- OHA is getting funding out on time and effectively.



- OHA is engaging with partners, like ORH and RHCC, regularly and meaningfully.

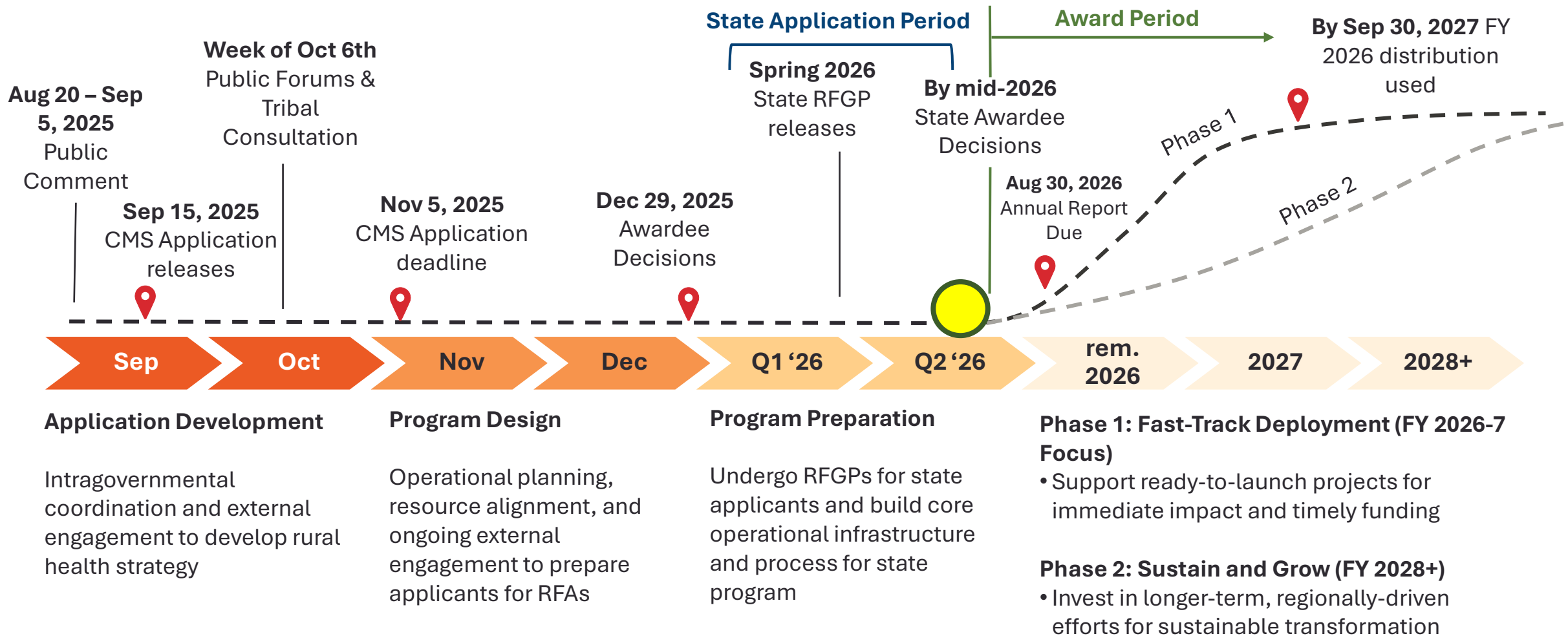


- OHA is cooperating with CMS to ensure sustainability for future funding.



Upcoming Work in 2026

Oregon's Timeline and Phases



*All dates are proposed and contingent on CMS award decisions.

2026 Look Ahead

- Catalyst Awards grant applications under review
 - Awardees to be announced in July
- Regional Convenings through Office of Rural Health
 - Starting within the next couple of months
- Ongoing Technical Assistance through Office of Rural Health
- Vendor Roadshow: October 7-9, 2026



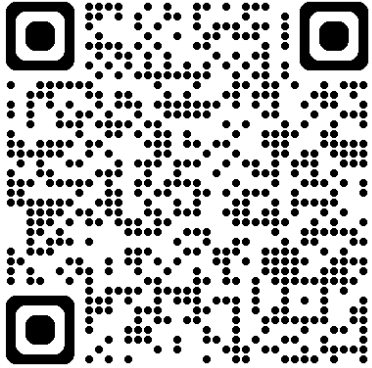
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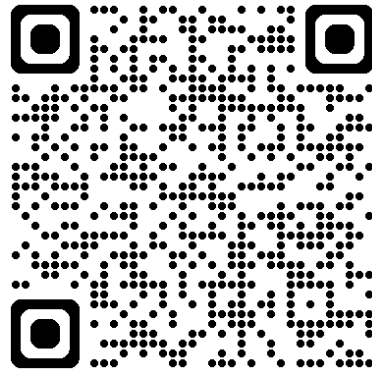
Questions?

Newsletter



- Visit our home page:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/hpa/hp/pages/rural-health-transformation.aspx>



- Sign up for the bimonthly newsletter:

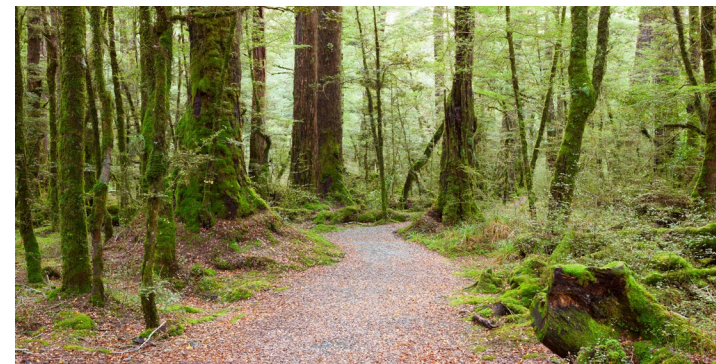
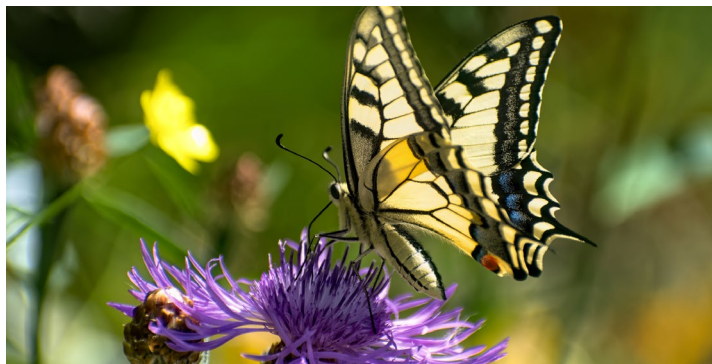
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Thank You



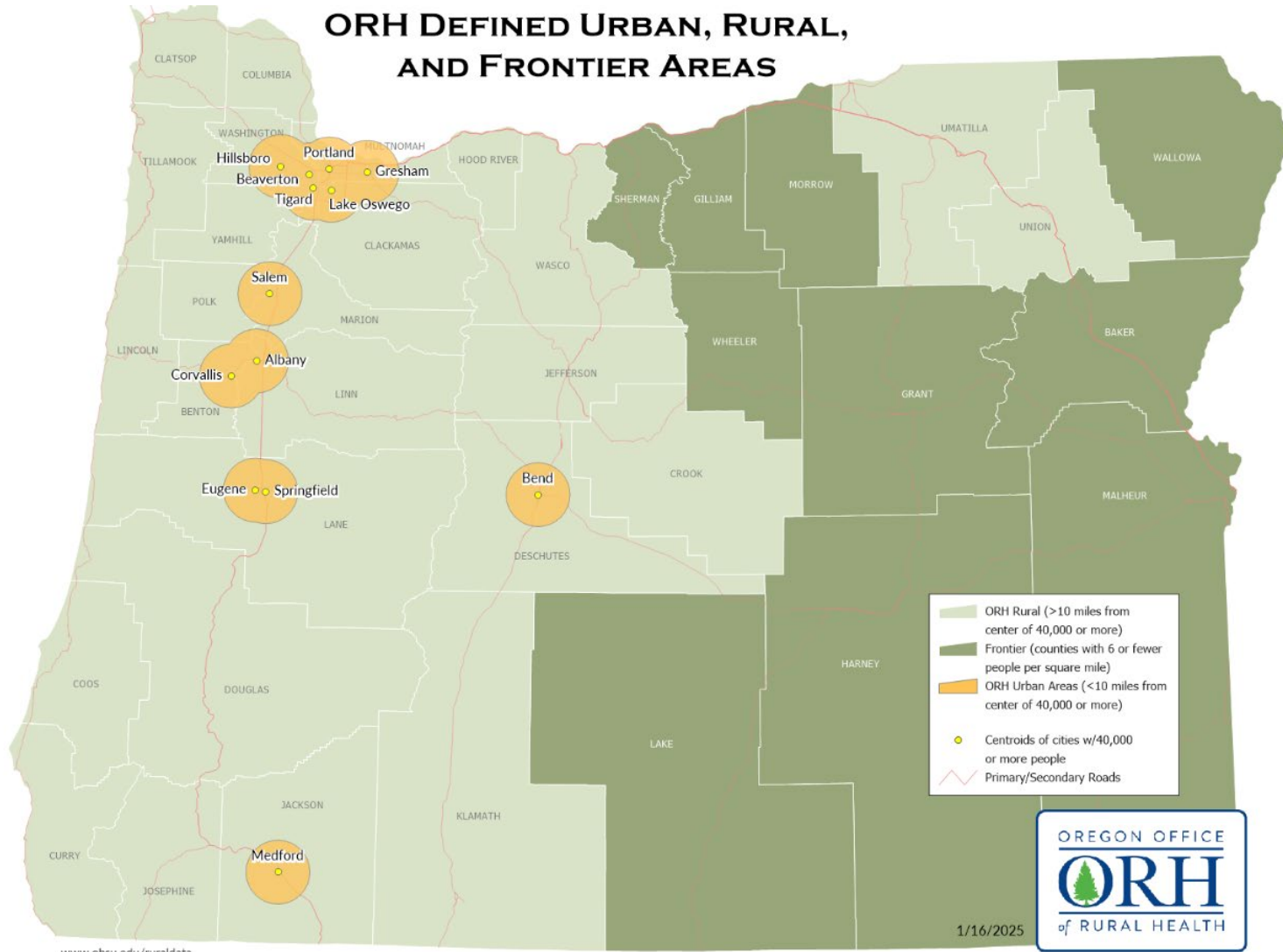
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Appendix

How is Oregon defining “rural” communities?



www.ohsu.edu/ruraldata

- Oregon is using the definition of “rural” used by the Oregon Office of Rural Health, which is defined as areas greater than 10 miles away from a population center of 40,000 or more people.
- All funds will be directed to rural and remote/frontier areas, with specific exceptions for only if funds will specifically advance rural health transformation (e.g., new medical residency programs).

Eligible Organization Types for Catalyst Awards

Organization types eligible to submit proposals include but is not limited to:

Health Care Providers

- Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)
- Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHCs)
- Hospitals & Hospital Systems
- Behavioral Health Clinics
- Dental Clinics
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Organizations

Academic & Workforce Partners

- Universities
- Community Colleges
- Education Service Districts
- School Districts

Public Sector & Federally Recognized Tribes

- Local Public Health Authorities
- Local Governments
- Federally Recognized Tribes

Community, Nonprofit, & System Partners

- Social Service & Community Based Organizations
- Professional Associations
- Non-Profit Advocacy Organizations
- Coalitions
- Coordinated Care Organizations



Project Eligibility for Catalyst Awards

- Projects must serve rural Oregon (outside 10-mile radius of a 40,000+ population center)
- Align activities with at least one RHTP outcome
- Address at least one population of focus:
 - Maternal and child health
 - Individuals with co-occurring BH conditions
 - Individuals aging in place
 - Individuals with chronic disease
- Be ready to implement within 1–2 months of award
- Ensure all activities fall within CMS Allowable Uses of Funds
- Participate in reporting & monitoring as required