

Safety Net Advisory Council (SNAC)
STABLE FUNDING RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

Background

Establish a Core Health Safety Net Integrity Fund. In the absence of a stable financing mechanism, the safety net has evolved organically, responding to a variety of economic and political circumstances across the state over a number of years. The strength of this evolution is that different models have evolved to meet the individual needs of different communities, the challenge is that public policy has very limited tools with which to support this critical community investment, expand its impact and assure its strength and viability.

The Safety Net Integrity Fund will assist in preserving the safety net and maintaining community based patient-centered services for those who face barriers to care. The Integrity Fund will provide **a source of capital** for safety net clinics to maintain essential services and support expansion for **additional sites or services in areas of unmet need**. Stable funding will enable Oregon to maintain critical infrastructure and “grow” the health care safety net in a strategic and sustainable way.

Recommendation

Establish the Core Health Safety Net Integrity Fund

- **Develop a set of priority investments** including but not limited to:
 - Clinics experiencing financial and other difficulties
 - Maintaining and/or expanding essential comprehensive (physical, mental/behavioral, oral health) services
 - Establishing sites where gaps exist
 - Assistance with recruitment and retention of workforce and/or the use of transformative technology
 - Assistance with affordable pharmaceuticals
 - Emergency Preparedness Planning
- **Define expectations**
 - Documentation of outcome measures
 - Matching funds
 - Linkages with community organizations
 - Commitment to a diverse workforce within the limitations of location
- **Build a revolving fund** sufficient to provide **\$2m in grant funds for year 1, \$4m in year 2, \$6m for year 3 and sustained at \$6m per year for subsequent years**. The Integrity Fund will:
 - Fund priority safety net investments from the interest
 - Leverage resources for capital facilities investments
 - Provide low interest loans to safety net entities

- FUNDING** options include but are not limited to:
- Legislative appropriation – e.g. secure a budget line item for Integrity Fund
 - Public bond
 - Public-Private partnerships,
 - Insurers and health systems adopt sites or clinics for a limited time period to assist them in paying loan
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- **Link the funds** where possible with foundation initiatives and matching funds to magnify their impact.
 - **Include technical assistance** to assist with issues that are not directly linked to immediate financial stability i.e. business planning, financial management etc.

Anticipated Outcome

The Safety Net Integrity Fund will promote shared responsibility across key stakeholders and communities for providing quality, timely and accessible comprehensive (primary, behavioral, mental and oral) health care to Oregon’s most vulnerable populations.