



2023 Oregon Health & Science University Community Benefit Report Narrative

Focusing on Fiscal Year 2023
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Submitted to the State of Oregon
on February 26, 2024

As Oregon's only academic health center, Oregon Health & Science University has a statewide, statutory mission to improve the health and well-being of every Oregonian.

OHSU provides health care services and related support across Oregon, as well as in Southwest Washington and portions of Idaho. The university's more than 200 outreach and service programs focus on improving the health and well-being of Oregonians and beyond through health care, research and education. OHSU helps meet the health workforce needs of communities throughout Oregon by educating health care professionals in medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy and public health. The university also educates the next generation of researchers, who receive hands-on training while working with OHSU's world-renowned investigators. OHSU is home to cutting-edge science that expands biomedical knowledge and develops new therapies and technologies that advance health care.

The pressing and vital needs of Oregonians are woven deeply throughout OHSU's pursuit of progress and innovation in health care, education and research.

As a public corporation of the State of Oregon, OHSU is unique among hospitals. In recognition of OHSU's statutorily directed missions, Oregon House Bill 3076 (2019) included updating community benefit reporting to clarify that OHSU's "obligation to carry out the public purposes and missions specified in ORS 353.030" is part of its community benefit contribution. In this report, OHSU details its important work serving the people of Oregon, while also seeking to fulfill the spirit of House Bill 3076 and describe how its public missions align with OHSU's community needs health assessment.



Assessing community health needs

OHSU is a member of the Healthy Columbia Willamette Collaborative, which includes 15 hospitals, four health departments, and also two coordinated care organizations in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties of Oregon and in Clark County of Washington state.

The collaborative is a public-private partnership that aims to improve the health and well-being of the communities that are served by participating organizations. The collaborative conducts community assessments to align local efforts to improve community health — while focusing on marginalized and underserved communities — and to inform the community about investments of participating organizations. In September 2022, it issued a new community health needs assessment report to provide a roadmap for future collaborations and health improvement projects in the region, which has a total population of about 2.3 million and is about 73% white.

The assessment focused on four areas of community health:

- Access to affordable and safe housing.
- Social and economic opportunity.
- Access to culturally responsive health care.
- Creating strong social networks.

Its key findings include:

- People of color, LGBTQ community members and people with disabilities were less likely than white respondents to report feeling safe in their communities.
- Lack of internet access limited educational and social engagement.
- Finding employment with high enough pay to compensate for a subsequent loss of government benefits was challenging for many community members.

- Nearly one-third of LGBTQ community members who responded and about one-fifth of respondents who identified as being part of the LGBTQ community or living with a disability, reported being discriminated against in health care.
- LGBTQ community members and people with disabilities were twice as likely as respondents overall to report delaying health care due to fear or discomfort.

Addressing community health needs

This report describes OHSU's major initiatives to meet community health needs, including the needs identified in the Healthy Columbia Willamette Collaborative's 2022 health needs assessment report. These initiatives span OHSU's multifaceted mission of health care, education and research, which bring vital health and education services to every county in Oregon through numerous collaborations. Many of these programs address multiple community health needs at once. For example, OHSU's Intercultural Psychiatric Program provides behavioral health care services to a racially and ethnically diverse group of more than 1,000 patients in the Portland metropolitan area, specifically addressing language and cultural barriers through multilingual counselors and interpreters.

Similarly, many OHSU programs address social determinants of health at both individual and systemic levels. For example, OHSU's Northwest Native American Center of Excellence works to increase the number of American Indian/Alaska Native individuals in the health professions, which both improves access to education for individuals and seeks to impact health outcomes at the population level by increasing representation. Examples of interconnected OHSU activities that address vital community needs are organized in this narrative according to the major themes of the community's health needs, as well as by OHSU's unique academic and research efforts and its financial assistance services for patients.

Table of contents

Access to affordable and safe housing 7

Supporting Oregonians Experiencing Homelessness

Community-based patient programs
Street Nursing Team
Health Care Equity Fair
Bridges Collaborative Clinic

Social and economic opportunity 9

Supporting Working Oregonians

Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences
Oregon Healthy Workforce Center

Access to culturally responsive health care 11

Responding to Public Health Emergencies

OHSU Health Equity Organization
Vaccination and testing for COVID-19, flu and more
Oregon Hospital Forecast and Trends report
Mpox support and services

Improving Health Care Access for All

Statewide, Portland-based health system
Provider relationship managers
Mission Control command center
Physician Advice and Referral Service
Telehealth services
Casey Eye Institute Outreach Program
Russell Street Dental Clinic
Partnership Project
Transgender Health Program
IMPACT for patients with substance use disorder
Oregon Poison Center
Comprehensive reproductive health services and professional education
Knight Community Partnership Program

Supporting Rural Oregonians

Office of Rural Health
Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network
Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute's Community and Collaboration Program

Sharing Health and Scientific Information

Support for Oregonians experiencing heart failure
OHSU Brain Institute
Oregon National Primate Research Center

Creating strong social networks 19

Supporting Oregon's Children

OHSU Doernbecher traveling subspecialty pediatric clinics
Pediatric and Neonatal Doernbecher Transport
Novel Interventions in Children's Healthcare
OHSU Doernbecher Injury Prevention Program
OHSU School of Dentistry pediatric services
OHSU Casey Eye Institute's Elks
Preschool Vision Screening Program
Benson Wellness Center

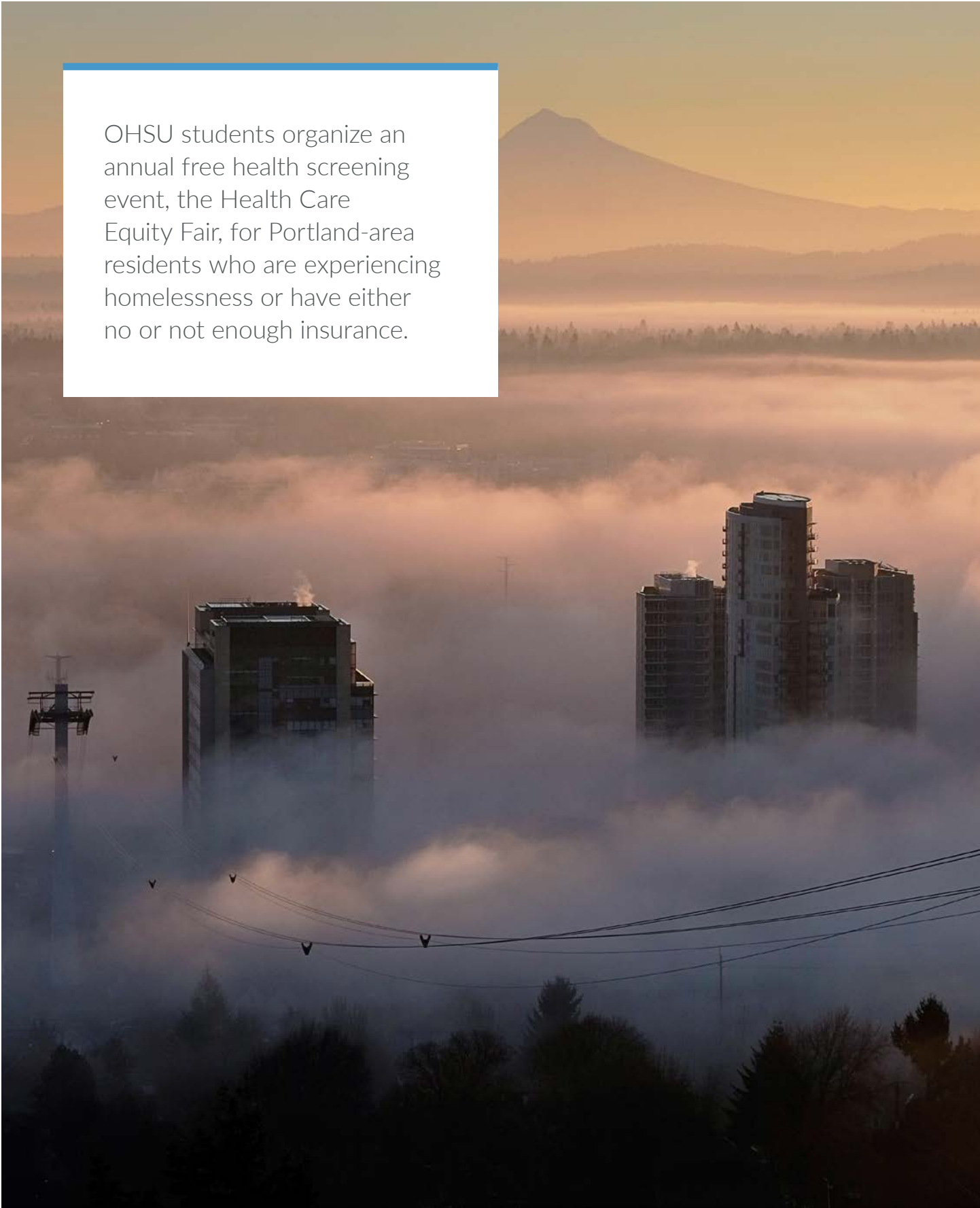
Supporting Oregonians With Disabilities

Oregon Office on Disability and Health
University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
Online resource for people with disabilities
Institute on Development and Disability
Child Development and Rehabilitation Center
Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs
Oregon Family-to-Family Health Information Center

Behavioral Health Services for Oregonians

Unity Center for Behavioral Health
Avel Gordly Center for Healing
Intercultural Psychiatric Program
OHSU Department of Psychiatry clinical services
Training the next generation of mental health providers

Academic and Workforce-Enhancing Activities	24
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Oregon's only dental school and M.D. degree program	
Vast majority of Oregon's graduate medical education program, working to expand residency programs and position statewide	
State support and tuition do not fully cover OHSU's educational expenses, leading the university to make up the difference	
Tuition Promise to students	
Nursing scholarships	
Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative	
Statewide training for dental, medical and PA students, as well as for residents and fellows	
California-Oregon Medical Partnership to Address Disparities in Rural Education and Health	
Northwest Native American Center of Excellence	
OHSU School of Nursing's five regional campuses, Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education, Interprofessional Care Access Network	
Campus for Rural Health	
Oregon Area Health Education Centers	
OHSU Office of Science Education Opportunities	
Knight Scholars Program	
Continuing education for working health professionals	
Oregon ECHO Network	
Life-Changing Scientific Research	30
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Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute, OHSU Technology Transfer	
OHSU Knight Cancer Institute	
OHSU Center for Mental Health Innovation	
Understanding health from a population-level perspective	
Financial Assistance for Patients	33
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OHSU students organize an annual free health screening event, the Health Care Equity Fair, for Portland-area residents who are experiencing homelessness or have either no or not enough insurance.

Access to affordable and safe housing

Supporting Oregonians Experiencing Homelessness

OHSU has two community-based patient programs — Care Transitions Innovation and New Directions — that pair nurses or social workers with eligible patients who either frequently come to the OHSU emergency department or are hospitalized at OHSU with complex chronic conditions and also experience houselessness, food insecurity or other barriers to care. To both help participating patients better manage their health and reduce health care costs, OHSU staff connect patients with primary care and other services. The programs are supported by internal OHSU funding and reimbursement from a Portland-area coordinated care organization.



The OHSU School of Nursing’s Ashland-based Street Nursing Team is working to meet the health needs of the growing number of Southern Oregonians who are experiencing homelessness — and better prepare nursing students to help this patient population after they become working nurses. With support from a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant as well as private philanthropy, small teams of students and faculty members visit encampments and other sites where Jackson County residents who are unhoused gather. Team members offer them foot soaks, hygiene supplies, clean socks, overdose prevention education and other services, while also helping coordinate virtual or in-person visits with other area health providers for more complex health issues.

Street Nursing Team

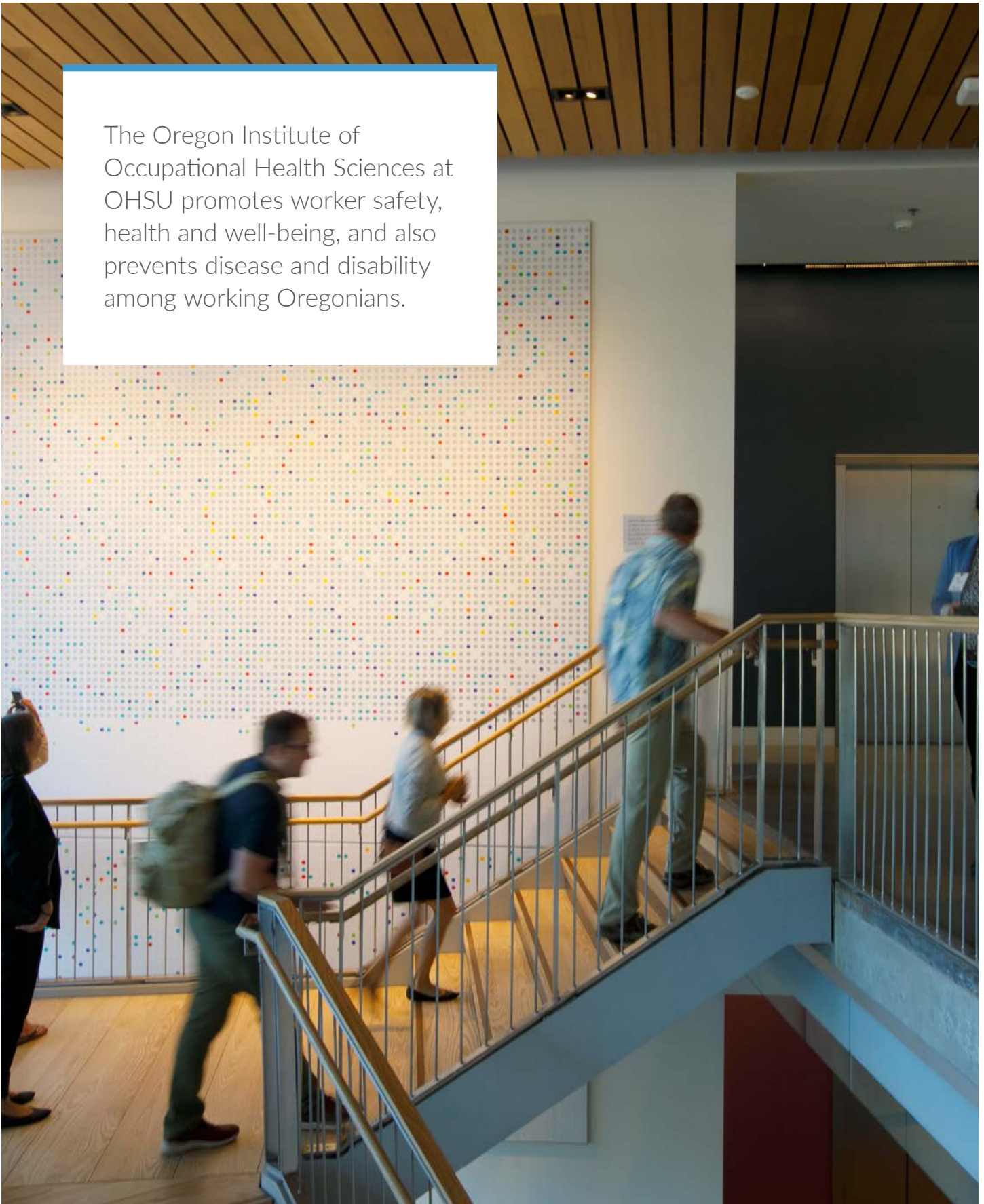
58	Undergraduate and graduate nursing student participants
2,459	Individuals experiencing homelessness treated
813	Complex care cases

In the classroom, students learn about social challenges, such as housing insecurity impacting health outcomes, and how trauma-informed approaches make health care more accessible for many patients. In the first year of the team’s federal grant, 58 undergraduate and graduate nursing students engaged with 2,459 people experiencing homelessness, with 813 of those cases involving complex care. By June 2026, the team aims to have 280 nursing students from both the Ashland and Klamath Falls campuses.

OHSU health profession students organize an annual free health screening event, the Health Care Equity Fair, to improve health care access for Portland-area residents who are experiencing homelessness or have no or not enough health insurance. Held annually in downtown Portland, the fair offers free screenings and services related to eye health, wound care, blood pressure and diabetes management for hundreds of people. Student organizers invite community organizations to have booths at the fair and help connect participants with additional services related to housing, substance use disorder, reproductive health and more.

In collaboration with the nonprofit Transitions Projects, the students who run the Bridges Collaborative Care Clinic offer free transitional medical, dental and social services to Portland residents experiencing homelessness. The nonprofit clinic was established in 2017 by medical, nursing, dental, pharmacy, public health and other students from OHSU, Portland State University and Oregon State University. Hundreds of people have received care through the clinic since it opened.

The Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences at OHSU promotes worker safety, health and well-being, and also prevents disease and disability among working Oregonians.



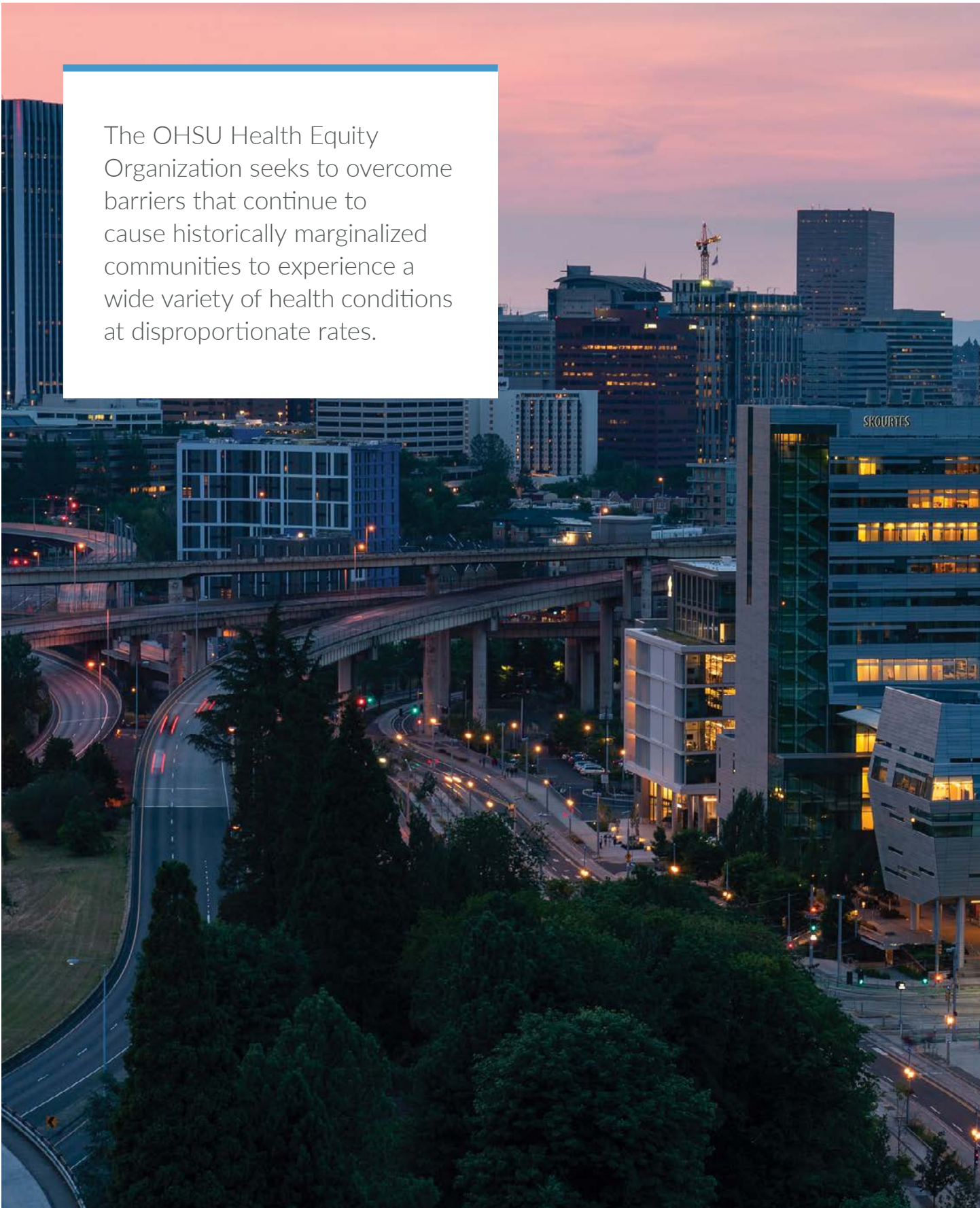
Social and economic opportunity

Supporting Working Oregonians

The [Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences](#) at OHSU promotes worker safety, health and well-being and also prevents disease and disability among working Oregonians through basic and applied research, outreach and education. It applies research discoveries, creates actionable strategies and integrates workplace safety, health and well-being to support the whole health of workers. The institute also trains health and safety professionals, disseminates its research products, provides consultations and offers occupational health and safety information through its resource center.

The institute includes more than 80 scientists, research and outreach staff who explore the prevention of injury and disease as well as the promotion of workforce health. Its outreach team brings leading-edge research to practice in communities, organizations and workplaces throughout Oregon and the United States with a broad variety of multilingual resources. The institute is home to the [Oregon Healthy Workforce Center](#), one of 10 federally funded Total Worker Health Centers that conduct research, outreach and education to improve worker well-being. The center's current projects include studying interventions to reduce burnout among workers at primary care clinics, examining how shift schedules affect firefighter health and evaluating an intervention designed to manage chronic pain in home care workers.



An aerial photograph of a city at dusk. In the foreground, a multi-lane highway with a complex interchange is visible, with light trails from cars. To the right of the highway is a large, modern building with a glass facade, illuminated from within. The building has the word "SKOURTES" visible on its upper section. In the background, a dense urban skyline is visible under a pink and orange twilight sky. A construction crane is visible on one of the buildings in the distance.

The OHSU Health Equity Organization seeks to overcome barriers that continue to cause historically marginalized communities to experience a wide variety of health conditions at disproportionate rates.

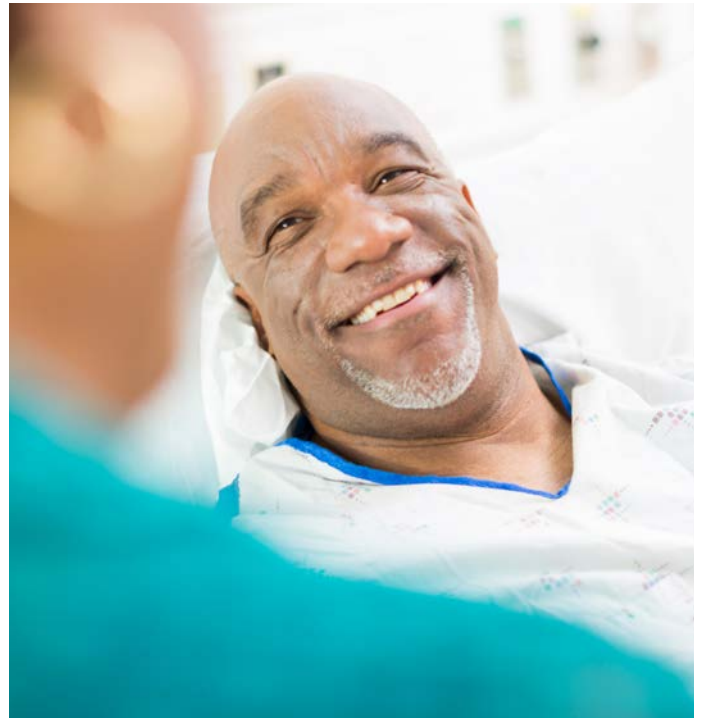
Access to culturally responsive health care

Responding to Public Health Emergencies

In January 2023, the [OHSU Health Equity Organization](#) was established to overcome structural and institutional barriers that continue to cause historically marginalized communities to experience a wide variety of health conditions at disproportionate rates. The new organization seeks to provide equal access to care by making all patients feel welcome at OHSU, ensuring that equity is centered in all OHSU policies, practices and operations, and partnering with communities to establish an exemplar of health justice. The organization is an outgrowth of the university's former Vaccine Equity Committee, which was formed in 2020 to help Black, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, Latino/a/x, immigrant, refugee, LGBTQ+ and other individuals protect their health during the pandemic as well as to organize culturally responsive and community-based COVID-19 vaccination events.

OHSU continues to offer Oregonians a range of [vaccination, testing and treatment](#) options for respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19, RSV and the flu. OHSU is also the only hospital in Oregon to offer the COVID therapy remdesivir on an outpatient basis. Remdesivir is the only COVID treatment option for people who take a variety of routine prescription medications that can dangerously interact with other available therapies.

OHSU's Office of Advanced Analytics, directed by Peter Graven, Ph.D., partners with the Oregon Health Authority to monitor statewide trends in respiratory infections. Graven develops periodic [Oregon Hospital Forecast and Trends](#) briefs to help guide the state's response to the ever-changing respiratory illness landscape, and enable health officials to better prepare weeks before a surge of sick patients arrives in hospitals. The forecast began in early 2020 to help Oregon health institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic, and later evolved to also track and predict other respiratory illnesses like the flu and RSV.



To date, Graven and colleagues have compiled more than 110 forecasts, which are shared with state public health leaders, other Oregon health systems, local school districts, infectious disease analysts in Washington and California, and the public. OHSU will produce additional reports as needed.

When Oregon experienced an uptick in [mpox](#) cases during the fall and winter of 2023, OHSU clinicians provided care for many individuals infected with the mpox virus. The university continues to partner with state and local health leaders to offer effective therapies as well as evidence-based, culturally specific recommendations to prevent infection. Vaccinations have occurred at OHSU as well as at community vaccination events that are organized in collaboration with LGBTQ+ leaders. OHSU also offers the antiviral tecovirimat, which has been designated an investigational drug for mpox, to patients who meet CDC criteria.

Improving Health Care Access for All

OHSU enhances community-based care, serves Oregon's most vulnerable citizens, increases access to health care education and brings groundbreaking health research to rural communities through a network of partnerships and collaborations. OHSU's community service programs bring health and education services to every county in Oregon. In addition to geographic access, OHSU's public service mission includes serving as a safety net for people across Oregon. For more than a century, OHSU has provided a disproportionately large share, relative to its size and market presence, of health care to uninsured patients and those with public health insurance.

OHSU Health is a statewide, Portland-based health system designed to reduce duplication of services, deliver greater value to patients and ensure that more Oregonians have access to the services that OHSU uniquely provides. OHSU offers services in Central Portland from OHSU Hospital, OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital and outpatient clinics located on OHSU's Marquam Hill and the South Waterfront neighborhood. Additionally, OHSU has outpatient clinics in Washington County, along with other services provided by Hillsboro Medical Center. It also has services in East Portland at the OHSU Family Medicine Richmond Clinic and provided by Adventist Health Portland. The system has the geographic reach required to expand the impact of Oregon's only public academic health center in the most densely populated area of the state. Unlike out-of-state mergers or acquisitions, OHSU and its health system affiliates are committed to an Oregon-based approach to Oregon's health problems, delivering the highest standards of care to patients, and the greatest value to the communities served. The system allows all parties to share in a coordinated approach to clinical operations — utilizing health resources more efficiently than any of its individual parts could accomplish independently.

OHSU provider relationship managers travel around the state to meet with community physicians and hospitals on a regular basis. They share information on specialty care provided at OHSU for patient referrals and also serve as a link to OHSU resources if more formal partnerships would be better for the community, such as sending OHSU health care providers to rural locations. In addition, both communities and hospitals approach OHSU for needs assessments on an ongoing basis.



OHSU's Mission Control command center uses deep-learning technology to oversee hospital operations and manage patient transfers. Initially developed to help OHSU manage its own hospital capacity, Mission Control enables the OHSU Health system to track in real time how many patients are nearing discharge and how many new patients are seeking hospital beds. It also uses advanced analytic tools to predict the expected demand and challenges for the following week. These efforts have since expanded to include the Oregon Medical Coordination Center, which seeks to improve statewide coordination for all pediatric patients, all adult patients with urgent and critical care needs, and also interhospital transfers from critical access hospitals. To date, the fully nurse-staffed coordination center has served more than 1,000 patients in need of interhospital transfers within Oregon. OHSU is now further expanding its technology-driven efforts to better manage the state's hospital capacity by creating the Oregon Behavioral Health Coordination Center, a centralized information hub that helps manage capacity at 11 inpatient mental health care facilities.

The OHSU Physician Advice and Referral Service provides the link for community physicians to connect with OHSU physicians for clinical advice and tertiary referrals. The service provides toll-free telephone access to OHSU's broad clinical expertise for patient care providers located anywhere in Oregon and beyond. The service responded to more than 59,000 inquiries from external clinicians in the 2023 calendar year, with the average call being answered within just 5 seconds.

OHSU telehealth services have long provided immediate access to OHSU adult and pediatric medical care in support of Oregon and Southwest Washington hospitals. Today that telemedicine network includes ICU consults, secure connections to outpatient clinics, transitional housing, skilled nursing homes and even connecting directly with patients in their own homes. The services can range from routine checkups and immediate care, to post-operative follow-up care and critical care, which can involve OHSU specialists and ICU nurses remotely monitoring patients at a community hospital. In addition, advance telehealth technologies enable OHSU to provide hospital-level care to eligible patients in the comfort of their own homes, and also make it possible to monitor formerly hospitalized patients after they've been discharged. All of this expands Oregonians' access to quality care and reduces wait times to access that care, regardless of where patients live. It also reduces costs and helps OHSU hospitals care for as many patients as possible, despite the resource constraints. In 2023, more than 360,000 OHSU Health ambulatory patient visits were conducted remotely via telemedicine, representing about 22% of the health system's total ambulatory visits. An example is OHSU's telestroke services, which use a streamlined transfer process to quickly work with local health care providers and help stroke patients access the treatment they need in the shortest possible time. In 2023, the OHSU Stroke Center provided 309 telestroke consults with local providers and administered blood clot-busting therapies to 87 patients via telemedicine. Another 130 telestroke patients were transferred to OHSU for more advanced care, resulting in 64 procedures to break up brain blood clots.

Through collaborations with programs serving low-income, uninsured and underinsured Oregonians, the OHSU Casey Eye Institute Outreach Program offers free vision screenings at an expanding network of community locations. The program operates two mobile eye clinics that travel throughout Oregon and partners with community organizations serving people in need to identify common, treatable causes of blindness. Participants are examined at no cost, and community groups assist with follow-up for individuals who need continued medical support. Since its inception in 2010, the Casey Community Outreach Program has served more than 12,000 Oregonians who don't have other access to eye care, provided eyeglass prescriptions to nearly 7,400 individuals and referred nearly 3,300 of those patients for follow-up care.

Improving health care access

1,000	Inter-hospital ransfers by the Oregon Medical Coordination Center to date
59,000	Inquiries responded to by the OHSU Physician Advice and Referral Service in 2023
360,000	OHSU Health ambulatory patient visits in 2023
309	Telestroke consults with local providers in 2023
12,000	Patients served by Casey Eye Institute Community Outreach Program since 2010

The program operates with the help of more than 70 Oregon social service agencies, programs and safety net clinics that serve low-income, uninsured or underinsured members of the community. The program has been extended through the Oregon Vision Health Network, which has three teleophthalmology screening sites that each have optical coherence tomography imaging equipment. OHSU ophthalmologists remotely review resulting scans to help diagnose and manage eye conditions of local residents. The program has also trained more than 270 community health workers to help connect even more people with needed vision care, as well as address the social determinants of health that impact those individuals. The overall program is entirely supported by donors, volunteers and community partners.

The OHSU Russell Street Dental Clinic provides quality, affordable dental care for Portland-area residents and specializes in meeting the dental needs of people living with HIV. While the clinic accepts insurance, it also offers a sliding scale fee structure for uninsured and underinsured residents with low incomes. Located in Northeast Portland, the clinic was established in the 1970s and was the only local clinic to provide dental care for people with HIV during the early days of the AIDS epidemic. U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration support enables the clinic's dentists — and the students of dentistry and dental hygiene they supervise — to offer some services free for people living with HIV, when those services aren't covered by insurance. In 2023, the clinic facilitated more than 5,400 total appointments for nearly 1,300 patients.

The OHSU Partnership Project provides services to people living with HIV. It does this with the support of a consortium of 13 public and private medical and social service agencies in the Portland metro area. The project focuses on ensuring people living with HIV have access to affirming, competent and high-quality health care. The core values of all project programs are collaboration, community building and client-centered work. The OHSU Partnership Program's specific efforts include:

- HIV case management, including nursing and medical case management.
- Culturally appropriate care navigation for refugees and immigrants living with HIV.
- Medical care navigation for persons living with HIV.
- Insurance enrollment assistance.

The OHSU Transgender Health Program collaborates with local community members and providers across the state to improve patient access to respectful and evidence-based health care, regardless of gender identity. With one of the largest and most comprehensive transgender health programs in the United States, OHSU provided nearly 11,000 visits and exams with adult and youth transgender patients during its 2023 fiscal year.

In addition to providing in-person care through OHSU's Portland-area clinics, the program serves gender-diverse patients statewide through its Transgender Health Virtual Consult Clinic, which, following a referral by their local primary care provider, connects patients with an OHSU provider for a consultation about hormone therapy and other gender care. The program's Community Advisory Board, which is made up of Oregonians who represent the transgender and non-binary community, helps guide its direction.

OHSU collaborates with providers across Oregon on the IMPACT project to improve care for hospitalized adults with substance use disorder. IMPACT, or Improving Addiction Care Team, provides comprehensive inpatient addiction consultations, including care from addiction medicine physicians, social workers and peers with lived experience in recovery, and provides connections to community addiction care. Studies show IMPACT is associated with reduced substance use severity, increased treatment engagement after hospital discharge, increased trust in health care providers, and improved provider understanding of how to treat addiction.

Improving health care access

1,300	Patients seen at OHSU Russell Street Dental Clinic in 2023
11,000	Visits and exams with transgender patients in 2023
33,000	Calls fielded by OHSU Oregon Poison Center in 2023

The OHSU Oregon Poison Center is a 24-hour regional poison emergency information and resource center for the public and health care professionals. The center serves Oregon, as well as Alaska and Guam. Its services save millions of dollars annually by keeping many people out of the hospital and helping those who are in the hospital to recover as quickly as possible. The center fielded more than 33,000 calls in 2023, with about 78% of those calls addressing accidental poisoning or toxic exposure. In 2023, the Oregon Poison Center successfully managed 93% of those poisoning and toxic exposure cases over the phone, preventing Oregonians from having to drive to the hospital while also saving more than an estimated \$23 million in health care costs. The center closely works with public health partners at the Oregon Health Authority to actively help with surveillance monitoring and patient management regarding many emerging public health concerns, such as fentanyl and other opiates, cannabis, e-cigarettes, pesticides and blue-green algae. This work has been presented at national conferences, where the Oregon-based center’s approaches to poison control and response serve as a model for other states.

OHSU has long been a consistent provider of comprehensive reproductive health services and a leader in educating the next generation of obstetrics and gynecologic professionals. OHSU remains committed to offering both because restricting access to reproductive health care and education disproportionately affects people who already experience barriers to health care and thereby perpetuates multi-generational cycles of health inequity and adverse health outcomes. In response to the challenges of the nation’s changing reproductive health landscape, OHSU’s Center for Reproductive Health Equity strives to advance reproductive health services, education and policy research. With the donor-supported ACT Fund, OHSU is also training out-of-state OB/GYN residents who can no longer be trained in abortion services through their home residency programs because this essential health care has been banned in the states where their programs are based.

As a result of donations raised through the Knight Cancer Challenge, the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute is committed to investing \$1 million annually over 10 years through the Knight Community Partnership Program, which provides funding for projects aimed at addressing the cancer needs of communities across Oregon. By providing funding, training and technical assistance, the program supports community organizations in identifying and addressing their most pressing cancer-related needs. Since its inception in 2014, the Community Partnership Program has distributed more than \$7.3 million to support projects across Oregon, including \$5.4 million in grant awards to 205 community-based projects across the state. Grants fund the work of a variety of organizations, including health care, education and nonprofits. The top three cancer types addressed to date are colorectal, breast and gynecologic, and 40% of the projects address cancer issues that are exclusive to rural communities. The 159 projects that have been completed thus far have reached more than 103,000 Oregonians. In 2023, the program awarded more than \$624,000 to 22 projects that focus on issues across the cancer continuum – ranging from prevention to screening and early detection to survivorship – and serve people throughout their lifespan.

Knight Community Partnership Program

159	Community-based projects completed to date
103,000	Oregonians served through community-based project grants to date

Supporting Rural Oregonians

The Office of Rural Health at OHSU seeks to improve the quality, availability and accessibility of health care for rural Oregonians. It offers assistance to rural hospitals, clinics and communities to strengthen the rural and frontier health care delivery system. Its services include provider recruitment and retention, data analysis, policy development and advocacy. The Oregon Legislature mandates the office to “coordinate statewide efforts for providing health care in rural areas” and “develop enabling legislation to facilitate further development of rural health care delivery systems.” Founded in 1979, the office is supported by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, the State of Oregon and OHSU.

The Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network is a statewide network of primary care practices, public health partners, health insurance payors and community programs. It coordinates clinical research and helps participating practices transform how they operate, while also extending the benefits of medical research to rural and under-resourced communities, connecting community primary care clinicians with each other and including the voice of practicing clinicians in medical research decisions. Through regionally based research coordinators, clinicians and their practices participate in pragmatic clinical trials and implement research and quality improvement initiatives. The network is nationally recognized for its success in working with rural primary care practitioners and their communities to improve health outcomes and equity through dialogue, research, coaching and education. Examples of the network’s more than 50 active projects in 2023 include:

- The health policy program, which provides education, evaluation and technical assistance to Coordinated Care Organizations to support their work addressing the social determinants of health and social needs of Medicaid members and their communities. The program also administers community benefit programs for the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization and the OHSU Integrated Delivery System.
- The research program, which facilitates clinical trials and practice-based research studies at 145 unique clinics located across rural Oregon. In 2023, more than 67,000 individual Oregon patients participated in these trials and studies.



The Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute’s Community and Collaboration Program aims to improve the health of Oregonians by supporting community-engaged research. It connects and supports researchers, community members and community-based organizations to facilitate research that addresses community needs. The Community & Collaboration Program includes seven community research liaisons who support regional engagement, as well as provide project assistance and leadership for coalitions and advisory boards. Some examples of the program’s work are:

- **Mi Opción:** Led by OHSU oncologist Eneida Nemecek, M.D., and a community research liaison, this program aims to increase cancer clinical trial access for the Hispanic/Latino community. In 2023, Mi Opción shared cancer information in a culturally sensitive way at six Spanish forums that were held across the state, as well as through short educational videos that were created in partnership with the Spanish-language television program Elemento Latino.
- **Community Assessment of Transgender Access to Care in Rural Oregon:** At the request of the Central Oregon Gender Hive, a community research liaison helped design, conduct and analyze a needs assessment exploring access and quality of care for transgender, non-binary and gender diverse people in Central Oregon via focus groups and surveys. Results are informing provider training, as well as dissertation research being conducted by an OHSU-PSU School of Public Health doctoral candidate.

Sharing Health and Scientific Information

OHSU provides public programming and events throughout the year. Most are free of charge and all bring public health education to the community.

OHSU partners with the American Heart Association to support Oregonians experiencing heart failure. The two organizations have created a public campaign to increase education, resources and support for those living with heart failure in Oregon and Southwest Washington. The collaborative effort includes a website with heart failure resources, educational seminars and heart failure education handouts for patients.

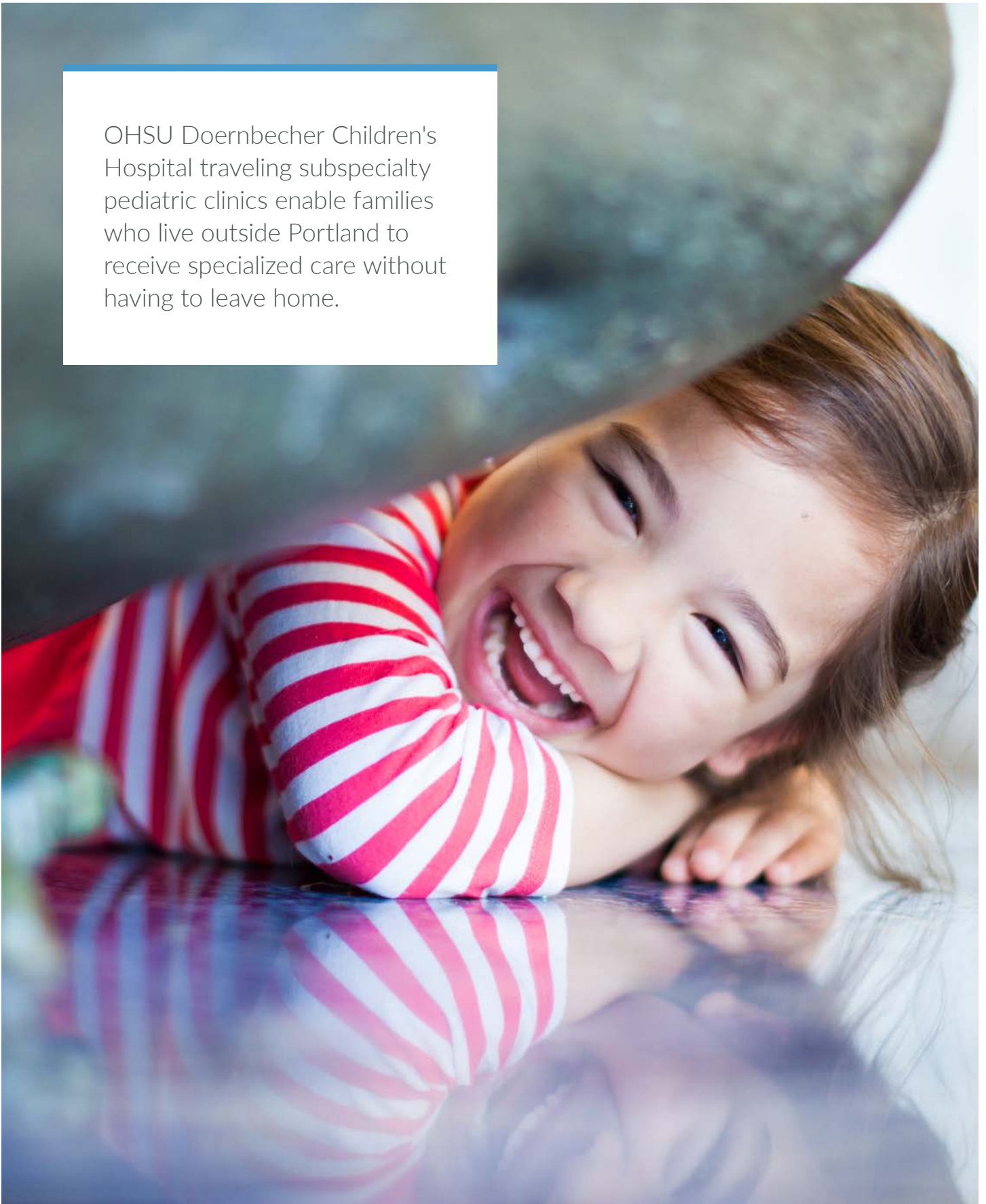
Home to one of the United States' largest and most celebrated groups of brain care and research experts, the OHSU Brain Institute presents a variety of outreach events to share OHSU's neuroscience expertise with the public, including:

- The Brain Fair @ OMSI, a free, all-day event at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, where OHSU neuroscientists engage with learners of all ages. About 1,000 people visit the fair's more than 20 interactive tables.
- OHSU's Brain Awareness Season, which every spring brings thousands of participants together to discuss the latest brain science. The season's lecture series features speakers from both OHSU and around the world, and engages a broad spectrum of society, including scientists, clinicians, policy makers, advocacy group leaders, teachers, students and the general public.



The Oregon National Primate Research Center at OHSU — one of seven NIH-funded national primate research centers that help advance human health by serving as a resource for biomedical research that requires nonhuman primate models of human disease — provides many educational opportunities for students and the general public. The center invites members of the public to tour the facility and meet with its in-house researchers. A pre-recorded video tour is also available online year-round. Twice a year, the center also hosts a Science Café lecture series for the public, with each series featuring the center's leading scientists.

OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital traveling subspecialty pediatric clinics enable families who live outside Portland to receive specialized care without having to leave home.



Creating strong social networks

Supporting Oregon's Children

OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital brings care to children all over Oregon with traveling subspecialty pediatric clinics. For families who live outside the Portland metropolitan area, these clinics offer specialized medical care without leaving home. As a result, a total of about 6,500 youth received care in cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, nephrology, urology and plastic surgery in 2023. These traveling subspecialty clinic visits occurred across the state, including in Bend, Coos Bay, Corvallis, The Dalles, Eugene, Klamath Falls, Medford, Pendleton and Salem, as well as in Vancouver, Washington.

The Pediatric and Neonatal Doernbecher Transport team stabilizes and monitors young patients while they are en route to OHSU's emergency department or intensive care units. The team serves Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Northern California, and is available to transport from other states if needed. It is the largest and busiest pediatric and neonatal transport program in Oregon.

The Novel Interventions in Children's Healthcare program helps families stressed by socioeconomic, health and other challenges manage their child's complex and chronic health condition. Trained interventionists work with families to solve myriad issues that prevent a child from following medical instructions. Specifically designed for families with limited resources or who have experienced social challenges such as homelessness or unemployment, it is Oregon's first intensive intervention program that focuses on children.

The OHSU Doernbecher Injury Prevention Program is an industry-leading and comprehensive injury prevention program dedicated to keeping kids safe. It offers education and resource support to families and staff throughout the OHSU Health system and the broader community. It strives to ensure children, families and health care providers have access to injury prevention educational information and resources. The program provides services through OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital's inpatient injury control program, along with two safety resource centers, the Tom Sargent Safety Resource Center at OHSU Doernbecher and the Braner Family Safety Resource Center at Hillsboro Medical Center.

In fiscal year 2023, the Doernbecher Injury Prevention Program provided virtual and in-person educational services to patients and caregivers across Oregon and Southwestern Washington state. The program worked with more than 4,750 patients, inspected 2,799 car seats and completed 102 adaptive needs transportation assessments. It also provided 779 new car seats, 290 portable cribs and more than 2,000 home safety items, bike helmets and lockboxes for medication and firearms. To help caregivers provide a safer environment for children, all safety items are offered free or at a low cost.

Throughout Oregon, an estimated 20% of children ages 6 to 9 experience untreated tooth decay. Significantly more children in Oregon's southeastern counties, where there are fewer dentists per capita, have cavities than the rest of the state. The OHSU School of Dentistry seeks to bridge the widening oral health gap by both providing comprehensive dental care and also educating its students on strategies to address dental disparities. OHSU dental students and faculty also partner with local dental and medical nonprofits to provide free oral health services to underserved children in the Portland area through an annual Give Kids a Smile Day event.



Oregon requires proof of a vision screening before children enter public preschool or kindergarten. Since 2003, the OHSU Casey Eye Institute's Elks Preschool Vision Screening Program has offered free screenings in public classrooms and libraries across the state, with support from the Oregon State Elks Association. Performed by OHSU staff and supported by volunteers, the screenings focus on detecting and treating vision disorders while the visual system is developing.

Many vision disorders, such as near-sightedness, can be successfully treated and even reversed if detected early enough. When a vision problem is identified, the Elks Preschool Vision Screening Program refers children to a local provider for a complete, dilated eye exam. The program specifically serves children enrolled in Head Start and are least likely to see an eye doctor. The program also offers bilingual educational resources to help children and their families protect their eye health. During the 2022-23 school year, the program completed more than 5,600 screenings and has facilitated follow-up care for more than 880 children whose initial screening results indicated further investigation was needed with a vision provider.

Faculty and residents of the OHSU Department of Family Medicine staff the [Benson Wellness Center](#), where they blend community health and resident education, encouraging the development of future health care professionals. Benson Polytechnic High School is a highly diverse magnet school that draws students from all Portland neighborhoods. About 66% of students are economically disadvantaged and would have difficulty accessing routine health care without this school-based wellness center. The center, which is temporarily operating out of Marshall High School while Benson Polytechnic is being remodeled, also provides learning opportunities for students enrolled in the school's Health Science Pathway.

Supporting Oregonians With Disabilities

The [Oregon Office on Disability and Health](#) promotes the health and wellness of Oregonians with disabilities through public health surveillance, health promotion, training, education, community engagement activities, information sharing and policy development and recommendations. It aims to promote and maximize health, prevent chronic disease, improve access to health care and increase the quality of life among the more than 900,000 Oregonians with disabilities. This is done through community outreach programs that are designed to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities, family members and caregivers of people with disabilities, educators and health care professionals. The office serves all 36 Oregon counties.

The [OHSU University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities](#) is one of 67 national centers that share a common vision in which all Americans — including those with disabilities — participate fully in their communities. The center is part of the OHSU Institute on Development and Disabilities, within the OHSU pediatrics department. Independence, productivity and community inclusion are key components of this vision. To build communities' capacity to sustain all their citizens, the center works with people with disabilities, members of their families, state and local government agencies, and community providers in projects that provide training, technical assistance, service, research and information sharing. Oregonians with disabilities serve on the center's advisory council, which is closely involved in research and clinical activities, and also provides information about the needs of various disability communities. The center also helps health professionals better meet the health needs of people with disabilities by facilitating various disability awareness training opportunities for Oregon providers, as well as for students enrolled in OHSU's medical, dental, physician assistant and nursing degree programs. Between 2017 and 2022, the center trained more than 540 people in education programs, had more than 550 research activities, and funded 28 community engagement programs that served more than 2,000 people with disabilities, family members, caregivers, professionals and students.

University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

540	People trained in education programs to date
550	Research activities to date
28	Community engagement programs funded to date
2,000	People with disabilities, family members, caregivers, professionals and students served to date

A collaboration between the Oregon Office on Disability and Health, the OHSU University Center for Excellence in Development Disabilities and the Oregon Self-Advocacy Coalition developed “Taking Charge of My Healthcare,” an [online resource for people with disabilities](#). The toolkit aims to help individuals advocate for their own health and well-being. Available on OHSU’s website, it offers resources and tips related to partnering with physicians, medication management, mental and oral health, how to help clinicians accommodate one’s needs and more.

The OHSU [Institute on Development and Disability](#) is dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities and their families. Its five centers work together to improve service, provide education and training, enhance communities, and develop research projects for people with suspected or known disabilities and special health needs in Oregon and beyond. The institute also partners with many community organizations to determine the needs and resources required to encourage healthy living for youth and adults with disabilities who reside in those communities. This happens through state-sponsored needs assessments, community education events, screening events and other efforts designed to better understand and enhance the capacity of local communities.

As the first state-funded organization to provide care for children and individuals with disabilities, the OHSU Institute on Development and Disability’s [Child Development and Rehabilitation Center](#) provides care in permanent clinics located in the Portland area and Eugene, as well as through clinical outreach teams in Medford, Bend, Hermiston, Redmond and Klamath Falls. Many of the center’s clinical services, including those for patients with Down and Rett syndromes, are not available anywhere else in Oregon.

Also part of the OHSU Institute on Development and Disability is the [Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs](#), which is Oregon’s Title V public health agency for children and youth with special health care needs. Title V is a large federal block grant program that focuses on maternal and child health. This center seeks to improve the health, development and well-being of Oregon’s children and youth, and operates in concert with the Oregon Health Authority’s Maternal and Child Health section.

The Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs partners with county public health agencies, community-based organizations, families and health care providers statewide to serve thousands of children and youth with special health care needs. Its CaCoon nurse home-visiting program helps families coordinate care through complex systems. The center addresses social determinants of health by facilitating family-centered, community-based teams that build family agency and resilience. It leads health system improvement through education, collaboration, surveillance and policy work, and is a nationally recognized leader in incorporating equity and anti-racism into Title V work. Center staff represent the interests of this vulnerable population on state and local boards, councils, advisory committees, and work groups. In 2022-23, the center contracted with 26 Oregon counties, directly impacting the lives of hundreds of children and families. It has also led distance-based learning collaboratives for dozens of health professionals across Oregon, developing local and regional expertise and leadership capacity in cross-sector care coordination for children and youth with special health care needs.

Part of a nationwide HRSA-funded initiative, the [Oregon Family-to-Family Health Information Center](#) is housed within the OHSU Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs. The Family-to-Family Health Information Center is staffed by parents of children with a variety of special health needs, disabilities and developmental and behavioral health conditions. Each year, staff travel throughout the state teaching parents of children and youth with disabilities how to access services and resources for their children. This kind of personalized support is hard to find, as evidenced by the kinds of comments and concerns the center hears from families in rural Oregon. The center is an important partner in health care for an often-neglected audience: families of children experiencing special health needs.

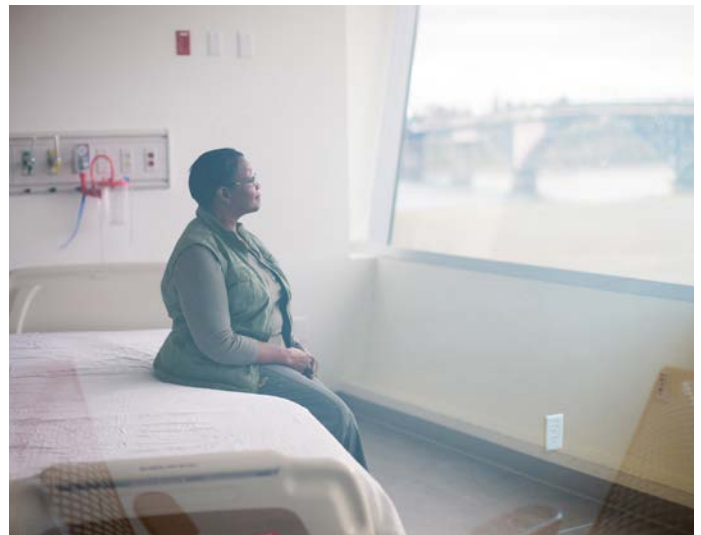


Behavioral Health Services for Oregonians

A collaborative effort between OHSU, Legacy Health, Kaiser Permanente and Adventist, the Unity Center for Behavioral Health is a 24-hour behavioral and mental health emergency services center and inpatient mental health care facility for adults, as well as adolescents ages 9 to 17. The center provides immediate psychiatric care and a path to recovery for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Its services include crisis counseling, intervention and stabilization; inpatient care; medication management; social work and case management; and family and peer support. It is a first-of-its-kind facility in the Pacific Northwest.

The OHSU Avel Gordly Center for Healing is one of a few practices in the Pacific Northwest that focuses on culturally sensitive care for African and African-American communities. The center employs trauma-informed counseling practices and strives to remove the stigma associated with mental illness for underserved communities. It also provides training for other health care and social service providers about sensitive and culturally responsive treatment for African-Americans.

The OHSU Intercultural Psychiatric Program serves more than 1,000 people living in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties who come from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds, including many refugees. Its patients include about 340 survivors of torture from Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Somalia, Nepal, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Bosnia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Syria and elsewhere. The program's 19 multilingual counselors and contracted interpreters provide support and treatment for a wide range of mental health issues, ranging from dementia to depression to post-traumatic stress disorder. Established in 1977, it is the longest-running program of its kind and is partly supported by the United Nations and the U.S. Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement.



The OHSU Department of Psychiatry's clinical services include tele-psychiatry for patients who live in rural or remote areas, as well as outpatient, in-person psychiatry clinics for adults and children who are closer to Portland. In addition, the department offers a hotline to help primary care providers meet their adult and pediatric patients' psychiatric needs.

OHSU is proud to train the next generation of mental health providers through a doctoral program in clinical psychology; an adult psychiatry residency program; and fellowship programs in addiction psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, consultation liaison psychiatry, forensic psychiatry and geriatric psychiatry. The majority of Oregon's psychiatric workforce graduated or received training from OHSU.

OHSU's pivotal academic programs are essential for and central to Oregon's efforts to grow the state's health care and scientific workforces.



Academic and Workforce-Enhancing Activities



OHSU's pivotal academic programs are essential for and central to Oregon's efforts to grow the state's health care and scientific workforces. As the state's only academic health center, OHSU is home to Oregon's only dental school and only M.D. degree program. During the 2022 – 23 academic year alone, OHSU conferred 1,142 degrees, including: 323 bachelor's degrees in nursing, 166 doctorates of medicine, 108 master's degrees in public health, 78 doctorates of nursing practice, 74 doctorates of pharmacy, 71 doctorates of dental medicine and 40 master's degrees in physician assistant studies. The public health degrees are awarded in partnership with Portland State University through the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, and doctorates of pharmacy are given in partnership with Oregon State University through the OSU/OHSU College of Pharmacy. OHSU also supports the education of affiliated health workers through two programs based at Oregon Tech: Last academic year, the OHSU/Oregon Tech Paramedic Program granted 19 associate's degrees, and the Oregon Tech/OHSU Medical Laboratory Science program granted 33 bachelor's degrees.

Further, OHSU is home to the vast majority of Oregon's graduate medical education programs, where physicians who have recently earned medical degrees receive hands-on training in their medical specialty under the supervision of more experienced physicians. Indeed, OHSU is in the top 5% of all health institutions nationwide for the number of residency and fellowship programs it offers. More than 900 physicians-in-training work at OHSU through 94 different residency and fellowship programs for a variety of specialties, ranging from pediatrics to cardiovascular disease. Knowing physicians are more likely to settle and work in the communities and states in which they complete their residencies and fellowships, OHSU is partnering with other hospitals throughout Oregon to expand residency programs and positions statewide. Early successes include the creation of three new residency programs at Hillsboro Medical Center, which is already training residents through its internal medicine, family medicine and transitional year residency programs.

Educating the Next Generation of Health Professionals

1,142	Total degrees granted in the 2022-23 academic year
323	Bachelor's degrees in nursing
166	Doctorates of medicine
108	Master's degrees in public health
78	Doctorates of nursing practice
74	Doctorates of pharmacy
71	Doctorates of dental medicine
40	Master's degrees in physician assistant studies

Because state support and tuition do not fully cover OHSU's educational expenses, the university makes up the financial difference itself. For example, it costs an estimated \$125,000 annually to train each medical student, with most expenses stemming from the need for highly trained faculty and staff and appropriate clinical learning environments at OHSU and elsewhere around the state. Revenue generated from tuition and state appropriations currently cover only about 60% of the cost to educate each medical student, with the difference being funded from the reallocation of other revenue generated at OHSU.

One way OHSU strives to make its educational programs financially accessible is through its Tuition Promise. Since it was first implemented in the 2014 – 15 academic year, the Tuition Promise has meant OHSU doesn't increase tuition for its students who are in the middle of a degree program. Through this approach, tuition rates are "locked in" upon enrollment, and returning students continue to pay the same tuition every year throughout the normal timeline of their given degree.

OHSU provides and administers many grants and scholarships for students to help reduce the costs of higher education in high-tuition health science fields. For example, the OHSU School of Nursing was recently awarded U.S. Health Resource & Services Administration funding to support new nursing scholarships. One new scholarship program will cover most or all of the tuition costs for 21 doctorate nursing students each year through the fall of 2027, as they study to become nurse practitioners who specialize in family health, psychiatric and mental health, or midwifery. Another project is helping current nurses be able to train and educate their future nursing colleagues by covering all or most of tuition costs to enroll in OHSU's Oregon Nursing Education Academy, which aims to train a total of 63 nurse faculty and 92 nurse preceptors by the fall of 2026.

To help address health disparities that are more pronounced in Oregon's rural and underserved communities, the Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative offers scholarships that cover full tuition and fees for medical, dental, physician assistant and advanced practice nursing students who are Oregon residents or have Oregon heritage. In exchange, scholarship recipients agree to practice in a rural or underserved Oregon community for the same number of years they received the scholarship, plus one more year.

A new joint OHSU-St. Charles Health family medicine residency program that will be co-located in Portland and Madras expects to welcome its first group of residents in summer 2024. OHSU and Sky Lakes Medical Center also successfully applied for U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services funding to expand the hospitals' joint Klamath Falls family medicine residency program by approximately one resident per year beginning in 2023.

Since the state-funded Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative was established in 2014 by the Oregon Legislature, it has supported the education of 185 OHSU students, who have gone on to provide more than 733 combined years of service to rural and underserved Oregon communities after graduation.

OHSU's medical and dental schools work with providers at clinics and hospitals all over Oregon to provide valuable training opportunities for dental, medical and physician assistant students, as well as for physicians-in-training, known as residents and fellows. To better equip future clinicians to meet the unique health needs of rural residents, OHSU's M.D. program requires its students to complete a minimum of a four-week rotation in a rural Oregon community, and OHSU's D.M.D. program requires its students to participate in community-based dental rotations for a total of nine weeks. These community-based rotations help create a steady stream of health professionals with a greater awareness, willingness and desire to practice in the state's rural and underserved communities.

The OHSU School of Medicine and the University of California, Davis, co-lead the California-Oregon Medical Partnership to Address Disparities in Rural Education and Health partnership. Supported by the American Medical Association and running through 2024, this project seeks to expand access to quality health care in underserved communities by addressing health care workforce shortages in Oregon and Northern California. The partnership has organized a network of hands-on learning experiences in rural, tribal and urban underserved communities for M.D. students and medical residents from OHSU and UC-Davis. Ultimately, the effort seeks to convince its participants to become working health professionals in the underserved communities where the partnership facilitates learning opportunities.

The Northwest Native American Center of Excellence is an example of how OHSU seeks to address the health care needs of all Oregonians by increasing the diversity of the health professional workforce. Launched in 2017, the center is expanding health care professional training for American Indians and Alaska Natives. A collaboration between OHSU, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and the Pacific Northwest's 43 federally recognized tribes, the center is supported by more than \$12 million in federal, state and private funding.

The center's best-known initiative is the Wy'east Post-Baccalaureate Pathway, a rigorous 10-month program that was originally designed to prepare citizens of federally recognized tribes for medical school. Now, W'yeast is expanding to the OHSU nursing and dental schools. The center's efforts are also increasing Native representation at OHSU; the university is now home to at least 14 faculty members who identify as Native, making OHSU home to one of the largest groups of Native faculty in the country. OHSU also currently has 61 Native learners, 16 of whom are participating in the Wy'east medical pathway.



The OHSU School of Nursing provides nursing education through five physical campuses located across Oregon in Ashland, Klamath Falls, La Grande, Monmouth and Portland, as well as through remote distance learning. The school has long addressed the need to improve the health of communities across the state through access to skilled and compassionate nurses. It has been nationally recognized for programs focusing on social determinants of health, health disparities and care for vulnerable populations, as well as rural and community-based practice. Additionally, through the Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education, students in nursing programs at 10 community college campuses enroll in a seamless curriculum that leads to a bachelor's of science degree in nursing from OHSU without leaving their home communities. The school also leads the Interprofessional Care Access Network, which helps students studying a variety of health care professions work together to understand and tackle social issues that influence health. Through the network, OHSU nursing, medical, dental, public health and pharmacology students form interprofessional teams to help individuals and families in underserved Oregon communities address barriers related to social determinants of health.

OHSU's Campus for Rural Health offers students and physicians-in-training from the university's dental medical and nursing schools, as well as from the OSU/OHSU College of Pharmacy, an interprofessional educational experience that integrates participants into rural communities and encourages them to stay and work in those communities upon graduation. Learners collaboratively work with community organizations on projects that address local health needs. A recent survey of participants found 87% were better prepared to care for rural patients and 56% were more likely to work in a rural area as a result of their experience. Since 2015, more than 1,300 students have visited Campus for Rural Health sites in Klamath Falls, Northeast Oregon and the South Coast.

To improve health care for rural and urban underserved communities, the Oregon Area Health Education Centers, or Oregon AHEC, coordinates, facilitates and supports regional workforce education and training programs across the state. Supported by the U.S. Health Resource & Services Administration with matching funds from OHSU and the State of Oregon, Oregon AHEC is part of a national network of similar centers. Oregon AHEC's efforts range from STEM educational opportunities for high school students to continuing education for working health professionals. Located across Oregon, each of the five regional offices are dedicated to working with local health care systems and providers, community leaders, schools and residents to identify and meet local needs. The Oregon AHEC Scholars Program better prepares current health profession students for future practice in underserved areas by providing two years of supplemental training that expands upon the curriculum of medical, dental, pharmacological, advanced nursing practice and other health degree programs at OHSU, Oregon State University, Pacific University and Western University of Health Sciences. A federal grant is also enabling Oregon AHEC to expand simulation's use in education across the state, including establishing new simulation centers for health profession programs at Chemeketa, Yamhill and Central Oregon community colleges, and also updating the simulation center at the OHSU School of Nursing's La Grande campus. During the 2022 – 23 academic year, Oregon AHEC provided STEM education opportunities for 3,333 high school and undergraduate students; provided continuing education for 1,919 working health professionals; facilitated rural and urban clinical training opportunities for 89 OHSU M.D. students; and provided training for 193 AHEC Scholars.



The OHSU Office of Science Education Opportunities provides a single point of entry for kindergarten through grade 16 teachers and students, as well as the public, in order to access relevant experiences and information in the health sciences. The office collaborates with OHSU departments and community partners to deliver quality education programming and connect students and teachers with health science professionals in the OHSU workplace and in the classroom. Many pathways for young, well-prepared students to access biomedical and science education are vital to meeting the need for health and science workers. OHSU encourages faculty, staff and students to serve by sharing their expertise and mentoring the next generation of health science professionals.

The Knight Scholars Program aims to increase the number and diversity of students who pursue careers in cancer research by providing high school students paid summer internships at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute. Knight Scholars participants come from communities that are underrepresented in cancer research and either live in Woodburn, Culver, Madras, Klamath Falls or Northeastern Oregon, or attend two Portland-area schools. Participating teens learn from mentors who are either science professionals or undergraduate or graduate students pursuing careers in science. A total of 88 students have participated in the program since it started in 2019.



OHSU’s schools and programs provide countless educational opportunities for working health professionals that enable physicians, physician assistants, dentists, nurses and others to stay up to date on the best health care practices. Each year, the OHSU School of Medicine provides about 400 continuing education activities that are designed to help physicians and other health professionals improve their clinical practice for the betterment of their patients’ health. Both the medical and dental schools offer continuing education opportunities that focus on health equity and social determinants of health. For example, the dental school’s cultural competency course aims to help dental professionals reduce barriers that can prevent marginalized community members from accessing dental care. In 2023, more than 79,000 health professionals and more than 9,600 dental professionals received continuing education through OHSU’s medical and dental schools.

Continuing education for health professionals

400	Continuing medical and health education activities annually
70,000	Health professionals received continuing education through OHSU in 2023
9,600	Dental professionals received continuing education through OHSU in 2023

A part of the Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network, the Oregon ECHO Network is a tele-mentoring program that helps primary care physicians across Oregon better treat chronic and complex illnesses from their local clinics, and prevents patients from needing to leave their hometowns in order to receive care. ECHO offers primary care clinicians the opportunity to learn from specialists from OHSU and beyond through a series of live video teleconference calls related to topics ranging from psychiatric medication management to integrating community health workers and peer mentors into clinical settings. In 2023, the Oregon ECHO Network produced 36 programs that reached 1,200 unique participants from 34 of Oregon’s 36 counties.

Tele-mentoring for primary care physicians

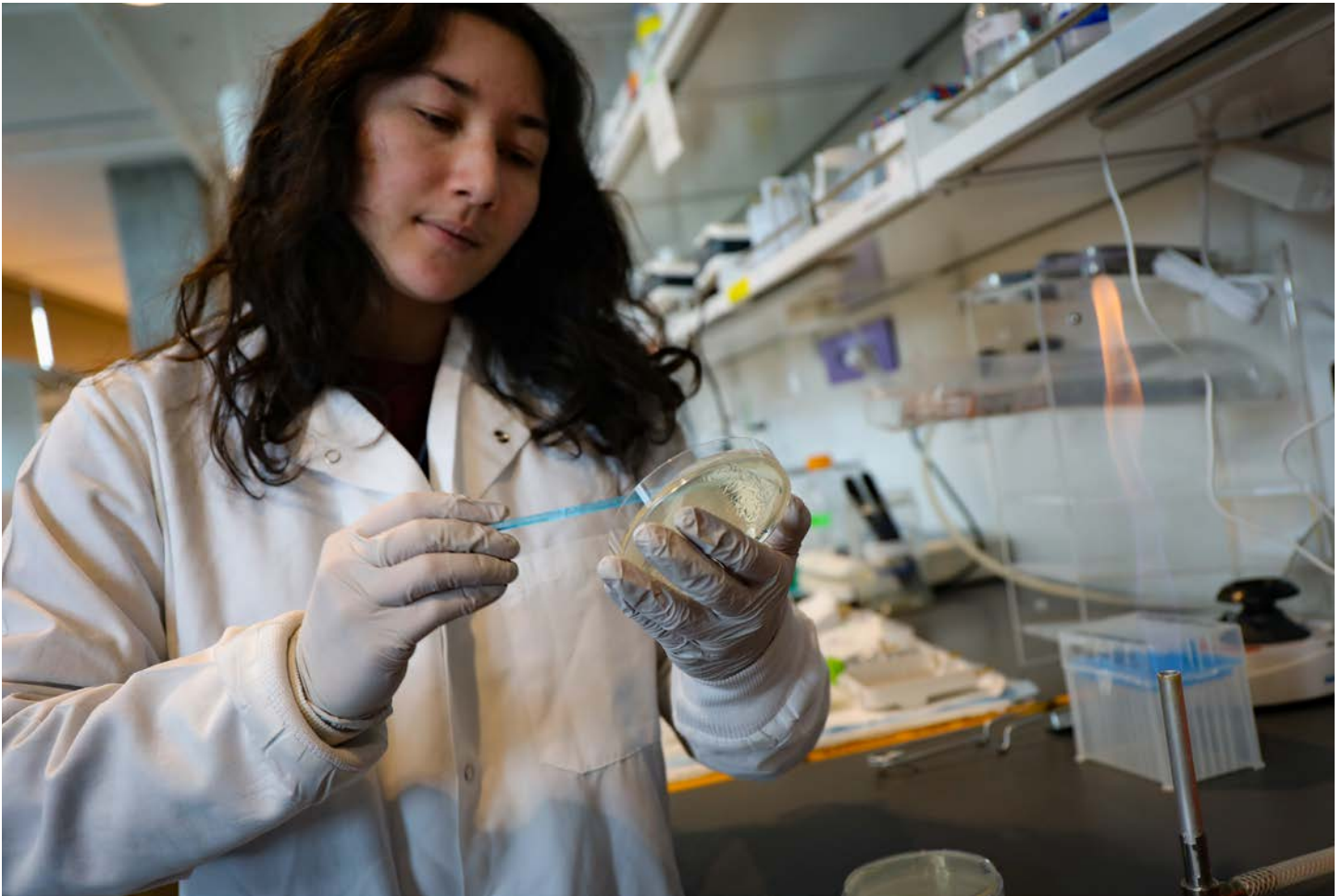
36	Programs produced though the Oregon ECHO Network in 2023
1,200	Unique participants in ECHO Network progams
34	Oregon counties represented by ECHO Network program participants

Scientists and clinician-scientists conduct life-changing research that explores everything from the life's basic building blocks to clinical trials evaluating experimental treatments for disease, as well as large-scale data analysis to assess societal trends in health and well-being.



Life-Changing Scientific Research

OHSU's breakthrough research leads to new cures, new standards of care and a better understanding of the basic science that drives biomedical discovery.



Scientists and clinician-scientists conduct life-changing research that explores everything from the life's basic building blocks to clinical trials evaluating experimental treatments for disease, as well as large-scale data analysis to assess societal trends in health and well-being.

The [Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute](#) at OHSU supports advancing research ideas so they can make an impact by providing training, funding and infrastructure during this years-long process. The institute's Biomedical Innovation Program provides financial support and other resources for promising scientific and technological ideas.

For example, the program helped an OHSU scientist optimize fluorescent contrast agents that help surgeons better see and avoid damaging nerves during surgery. OHSU scientists then established the Portland-based startup Trace Biosciences, which is further advancing the technology with a \$4 million federal grant that it received in 2023. Another startup that the institute has supported, Portland-based ProMedix, Inc., received more funding for their rapid sepsis detection device after it was awarded the top prize at a regional bioscience investment competition in 2023. Since the Biomedical Innovation Program began providing critical funding for initial, proof-of-concept work like this in 2013, it has helped project teams secure more than \$37 million in follow-up funding.



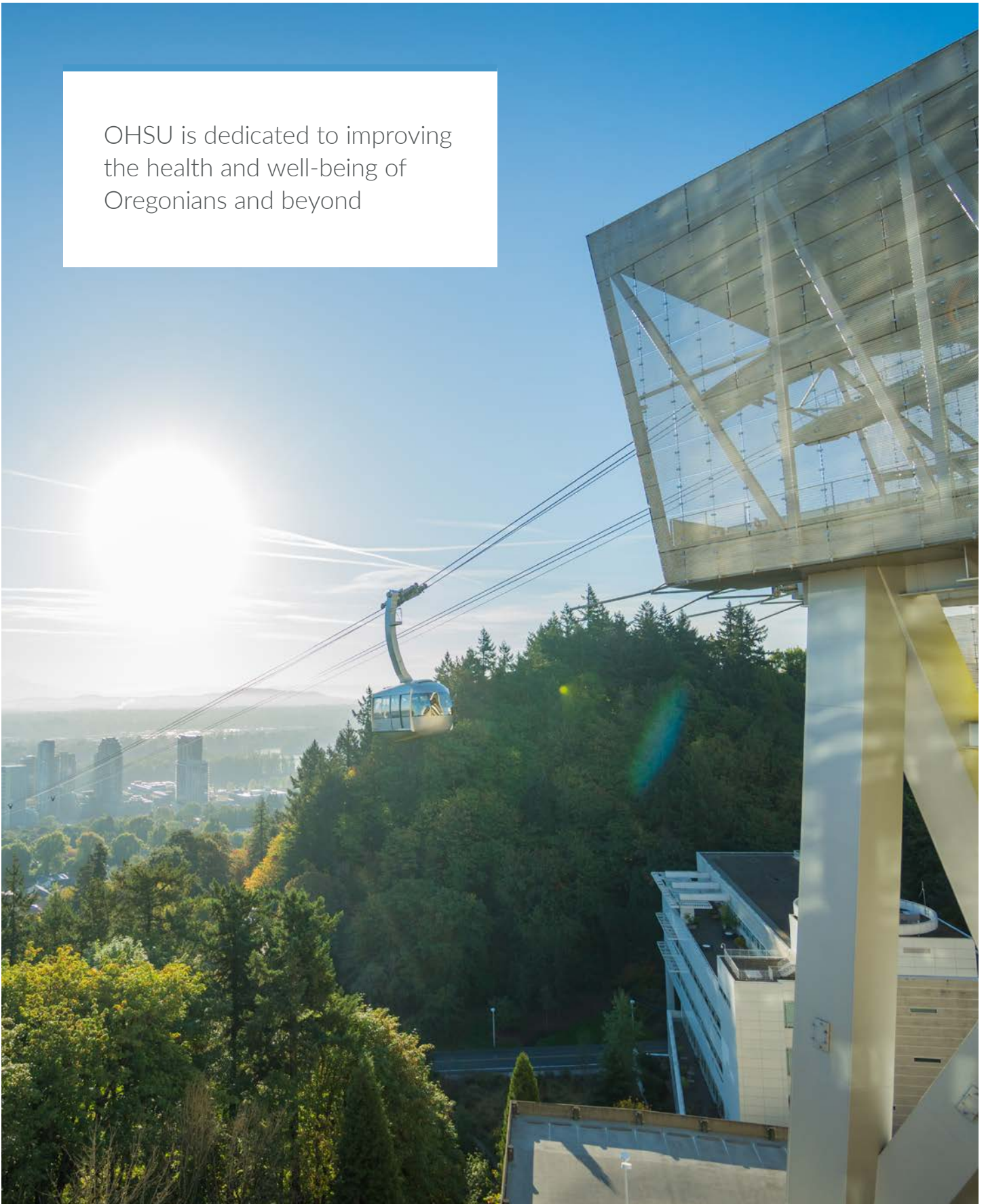
The OHSU Knight Cancer Institute is well-known for its ability to turn discoveries into cancer treatments — such as Gleevec, which allows patients with a once-devastating form of leukemia to now expect a normal life span. The institute's efforts to develop targeted therapy and early detection methods include a new Precision Biofabrication Hub where researchers are using lab-grown mini organs and microchips that simulate organ function to unlock the mysteries of cancer and other diseases. Clinician-scientists at the institute are also working to make cancer clinical trials more inclusive by helping people enroll in clinical trials through intentional outreach to underserved communities.

The OHSU Center for Mental Health Innovation, formerly known as the OHSU Center for ADHD Research, is quickly distinguishing itself as a leader in better understanding the beginnings of mental illness — including Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder, depression, anxiety, addiction and suicide — as well as finding ways to reduce it. For example, an OHSU pilot study of pregnant mothers whose children were expected to be at risk for ADHD discovered a new blood marker that is now predicting the condition in offspring five years later. And center researchers have found that high-dose vitamin and mineral nutritional supplements can lead to notable clinical improvements in about half of children with ADHD.

OHSU scientists also seek to understand health issues from a broad, population-level perspective, including researching health disparities and gun violence as a public health issue. For example, the OHSU-led Primary Care Latino Equity Research Lab is dedicated to understanding Latino disparities and equity in primary care. The Gun Violence Prevention Research Center, based in the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, is collecting and analyzing data to help develop solutions to the gun violence epidemic. In addition to conducting research, the center is supporting a Multnomah County commission's effort to use a public health approach to examine gun violence, and ultimately make recommendations on how to reduce firearm death and injuries. Researchers at the public health school have also conducted systematic reviews that help develop clinical practice guidelines by the American College of Physicians, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, the American Pain Society, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and more.

OHSU provides financial support for basic science and clinical research not covered fully by federal grants. Internal OHSU research support helps pay for costs associated with recruitment, core lab support and bridge funding. The university also covers pilot and seed funding for early-stage research, as well as institutional cost-share commitments that are sometimes required by grant-sponsoring agencies. OHSU attempts to quantify internally funded indirect costs, such as administration and space, that support research at OHSU.

OHSU is dedicated to improving
the health and well-being of
Oregonians and beyond



Financial Assistance for Patients

OHSU Healthcare and the OHSU Practice Plan meet community obligations to provide financial assistance in a fair, consistent and objective manner.

OHSU informs patients and families of the availability of financial assistance through signage and a brochure about billing, collections and financial assistance that is available in waiting areas in all settings of clinical care, including inpatient, outpatient and in the emergency department. OHSU also details what is available through a financial assistance public website. Additionally, OHSU informs all patients of its financial assistance program during the registration process for care, on all billing statements, and has also posted notices throughout its hospitals.

Requests for financial assistance may be made at any point before, during or after care is provided. Patients who contact OHSU's billing customer service and express concerns about paying their bill are provided information about and access to the financial assistance program, and are also referred for financial screening when requested. OHSU Healthcare/OHSU Practice Plan offers an application process for determining initial interest in, and qualification for, financial assistance. OHSU does not discriminate for any reason, including on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin.

OHSU follows state laws regarding financial assistance, and screens all patients to see if they qualify before referring to an outside collection agency. A patient is eligible for financial assistance consideration based on the results of the financial screening process and meeting certain income eligibility criteria, as established by the federal poverty guidelines.

