

2024 Oregon Health & Science University Community Benefit Report Narrative

Reporting period: July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Submitted to Oregon Health Authority: 3/25/25

About OHSU

Oregon Health and Science University is the only public academic medical center in Oregon. OHSU strives every day toward excellence in clinical care, medical and health professions education, and biomedical research and innovation. Woven through these three missions is a fourth, equally crucial mission: community service, particularly community service that advances health equity.

OHSU is likewise Oregon's sole public corporation, balancing operating flexibility and public accountability in service to Oregonians. OHSU's obligation to carry out public purposes and missions, as specified in [Oregon House Bill 3076 \(2019\)](#), is fulfilled in part by its community benefit activities.

These activities, which are worth millions of dollars each year, align with OHSU's community health needs assessment.

Assessing community health needs

OHSU is a member of the [Healthy Columbia Willamette Collaborative](#), a public-private partnership that comprises seven hospital systems, four county health departments and two coordinated care organizations. The collaborative issued its most recent [community health needs assessment](#) in 2022.

At the time, the collaborative served a total population of 2.3 million in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties in Oregon and Clark County in Washington. Among the noteworthy attributes of this population:

- 27% were people of color.
- 21% used a primary language other than English.
- 11.6% had at least one disability and lived at or below the federal poverty level.
- 10.5% lived at or below the federal poverty level.

The assessment identified and prioritized community needs and characteristics in four priority areas:

A neighborhood for all: Safe and affordable housing, physical safety in community, cultural displacement due to gentrification

Access to culturally- and linguistically-responsive health care: Affordable health care, culturally- and linguistically-responsive health care, trauma-informed care, delayed or avoided health care

Essential community services and resources: Economic opportunity, educational opportunity, culturally-specific and healthy foods, transportation, virtual resources

Support for family and community ways: Social connection

It was the hope and intent of those who prepared the assessment that it would “serve as a catalyst for change and improvement to ensure our communities obtain the services and supports necessary to thrive.”

Addressing community health needs

OHSU works to provide services and supports for community health in ways that align with the Healthy Columbia Willamette Collaborative assessment. Following are key examples of significant community benefit activities at OHSU in fiscal year 2024, ending June 30, 2024.

Unreimbursed costs of care

At OHSU, unreimbursed costs of care fall into two categories.

Unreimbursed costs of Medicaid are the shortfalls created when OHSU receives payments that are less than the cost of caring for beneficiaries of Medicaid or the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

As of the 2020 Census, Oregon had 4.2 million residents. As of March 2025, 1.4 million or 34% of Oregonians were on Medicaid, with the option to choose OHSU for their care. Most of the children served by OHSU Doernbecher Children’s Hospital are on Medicaid. OHSU spent \$109.2 million on unreimbursed costs of Medicaid.

Unreimbursed costs of other public payers are the shortfalls created when OHSU receives payments that are less than the cost of caring for beneficiaries of non-Medicaid, non-Medicare public programs. OHSU spent \$15.2 million on these costs.

Covering these unreimbursed costs is part of OHSU’s status as a safety net hospital, which provides care regardless of ability to pay.

Charity care

Charity care means that a patient receives all or part of their care for free. OHSU offers charity care to those who qualify through its financial assistance program. OHSU promotes this program during patient registration, with signs and brochures in patient waiting areas, on patient bills and on its public website.

In 2024, OHSU had over 76,000 hospital patients, 56,000 patient visits to its emergency department and 1.2 million patient visits to its ambulatory clinics. OHSU spent \$21.7 million on charity care for over 173,802 patients, of whom over 5,498 received 100% charity care.

Health professions education

Educating and training health care professionals to promote the health and well-being of Oregonians has been a core mission at OHSU since its founding. Today, OHSU is the largest provider of medical and health professions education in the state, with five schools and more than 55 programs.

In fiscal year 2024, OHSU spent \$172 million on health professions education that involved:

- 549 medical students
- 546 interns, residents and fellows
- 732 nurses
- 12 other allied health professional students
- 254 health professionals pursuing continuing education

OHSU spent an additional \$125 million on other applicable health professions education costs.

Alignment with community needs:

- *Essential community services and resources: Educational opportunity*

Research

Every year OHSU research changes lives, including research that focuses on reducing health disparities and preventable illness in Oregon communities. For example, OHSU scientists and clinician-scientists have:

- Identified disparities in menopause care for Oregonians and helped implement solutions.
- Shown that community walks and collective remembering can improve brain health in older Black adults.

- Studied the link between Oregonians' social needs, such as food and housing, and their health.
- Examined the gender gap in pain management among OHSU patients.
- Documented how an Oregon program used social media to reduce youth suicide risk.
- Tested the use of telemedicine and peer support in rural Oregon to screen, treat and cure people.

OHSU spent \$81 million on clinical and community health research.

Alignment with community needs:

- *A neighborhood for all: Cultural displacement due to gentrification*
- *Access to culturally- and linguistically-responsive health care: Affordable health care, trauma-informed care, delayed or avoided health care*
- *Essential community services and resources: Virtual resources*
- *Support for family and community ways: Social connection*

Community Dentistry, OHSU Dental Clinics and Russell Street Clinic

Community dentistry focuses on promoting dental health across populations. OHSU practices community dentistry in its four dental clinics for all ages. OHSU dental faculty and students frequently volunteer to provide general and specialty care for Portland-area residents who:

- Have low or no income
- Are uninsured
- Are living with HIV

OHSU's dental clinics offer prices 30% to 40% lower than area private practices. The clinics accept most dental insurance plans and offer sliding scale fees.

The clinics include the Russell Street Dental Clinic in North Portland. Founded in the 1970s, Russell Street was the only local clinic to provide dental care for people living with HIV in the early days of the AIDS epidemic. It continues to care for people with HIV, who can receive some services for free when those services are not covered by insurance.

In fiscal year 2024, OHSU community dentistry reported 8,070 patient visits.

OHSU spent \$1.5 million on community dentistry, over \$898,000 on dental clinics, and over \$105,000 on the Russell Street Clinic.

Alignment with community needs:

- *Access to culturally- and linguistically-responsive health care: Affordable health care*

C-Train

The OHSU C-Train program provides transitional care for patients as they move from one health care setting to another. Nurses and clinical social workers meet patients while they are at OHSU and assess their needs. Then C-Train provides 30 to 90 days of transitional care. The program's goal is to support underserved patients by bridging gaps in post-hospital care. OHSU spent \$1.2 million on C-Train.

Alignment with community needs:

- *Access to culturally- and linguistically-responsive health care: Delayed or avoided health care*

Saturday Academy and Partnership for Scientific Inquiry

Saturday Academy is a nonprofit organization that connects Portland-area K-12 students with opportunities for hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, math and the arts. The Partnership for Scientific Inquiry, also a nonprofit, introduces Oregon high school students to biomedical research, especially students from underrepresented populations.

OHSU partners with Saturday Academy by offering internships to high school students in the academy's Apprenticeships in Science & Engineering program. Among Saturday Academy interns in 2024:

- 77% identified as historically or systemically excluded from STEM careers
- 55% were people of color and identified as non-male
- 18% identified as LGBTQ+
- 11% spoke English as a second language
- 7% were first-generation college-bound

Saturday Academy interns at OHSU gain valuable hands-on experience with research in a range of medical and scientific fields.

OHSU works with the Partnership for Scientific Inquiry by sponsoring classes and internships that introduce high school students to biomedical research. Through mentorship, experience and assignments, students gain an in-depth understanding of scientific research and inquiry.

OHSU spent \$1.03 million on these programs.

Alignment with community needs:

- *Essential community services and resources: Economic opportunity, educational opportunity*

Occupational Health

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

- Training health and safety professionals.
- Providing consultations.
- Providing health and safety information for workers in multiple languages.
- Researching ways to prevent injury and disease in the workplace.
- Researching ways to promote worker health.

The institute is home to the Oregon Healthy Workforce Center. It's one of 10 federally funded Total Worker Health Centers that conduct research, outreach and education to improve worker well-being. The center's projects have included:

- Studying how to reduce staff burnout at primary care clinics.
- Looking at how shift schedules affect firefighter health.
- Evaluating ways to help home care workers with chronic pain.

OHSU spent \$975,000 on occupational health programs that supported 17,123 people.

Alignment with community needs:

- *A neighborhood for all: Physical safety in community*
- *Essential community services and resources: Economic opportunity*

Partnership Project

The Partnership Project provides services to people living with HIV. It is a consortium of 13 public and private medical and social service agencies in the Portland area. The program's goal is to maximize community resources to ensure that people living with HIV have access to affirming, competent and high-quality health care. This includes culturally appropriate care navigation for immigrants and refugees living with HIV. OHSU spent \$935,000 on the Partnership Project.

Alignment with community needs:

- *Access to culturally- and linguistically-responsive health care: Culturally- and linguistically-responsive health care, trauma-informed care*
- *Support for family and community ways: Social connection*

Rural Health Clinics

The Oregon Office of Rural Health at OHSU works with hospitals, clinics and communities to strengthen health care for the 33% of Oregonians who live in rural communities. Supported clinics include Rural Health Clinics, which provide essential primary care and preventive services in underserved areas. These clinics use telehealth to expand patient care and rely on mid-level providers to address physician shortages. They focus on their communities' specific needs and foster collaboration among health professionals.

In 2024, the Office of Rural Health supported 108 rural health clinics with:

- 21 educational webinars for 449 clinic staff
- 20 newsletters
- 23 professional development scholarships for clinic leaders
- 200 instances of technical assistance

OHSU spent \$517,480 on assistance to Rural Health Clinics.

Alignment with community needs:

- *Access to culturally- and linguistically-responsive health care: Culturally- and linguistically-responsive health care*
- *Essential community services and resources: Virtual resources*

OHSU Library

The OHSU Library serves not only OHSU faculty, staff and students but also all health professionals across the state. OHSU's library services include:

- Electronic books and videos, electronic and print serials and print books
- Point-of-care tools, which clinicians can access and use while providing care
- Drug information
- Patient education information

OHSU spent \$284,770 on the library.

Alignment with community needs:

- *Essential community services and resources: Educational opportunity, virtual resources*

Central City Concern

Central City Concern is a Portland nonprofit that works with people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. It is also a federally qualified health center that in 2024 delivered health care to 11,360 people with low income, not enough insurance or no insurance. Central City Concern and OHSU have a "social medicine" partnership in which OHSU

internal medicine residents help care for CCC patients. The goal of this partnership is to help:

- Central City Concern improve and increase medical services to its clients.
- OHSU residents learn about safety net services and resources, and gain skills to care for this population.

OHSU spent \$152,000 on this partnership.

Alignment with community needs:

- *Access to culturally- and linguistically-responsive health care: Affordable health care*