



Program Development and Administration

Initial funding for development was provided through the Oregon Community Foundation and continued through AHEC and OHSU support. Although the program is predominantly member supported through annual fees, we are actively seeking rate relief and subsidy partners in our mission to address temporary practice coverage needs and expand rural Oregon's primary care workforce capacities.



THE OREGON LOCUM TENENS COOPERATIVE

Organizing provider practice relief and maintaining access to care for Oregon's rural and underserved communities.



The Oregon Locum Tenens Cooperative

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Community Driven and Membership Directed

In July of 2009, OHSU's Area Health Education Center (AHEC) began exploring alternative methods of locum tenens provision, ensuring temporary or short-term primary care access to rural communities, facilities and medical practices. Many communities recognized commercial options of locum tenens as unaffordable and often providing care not compatible with the needs of rural populations. Our mission, in partnering with rural communities to address these issues, led us to a cooperative model of locums' provision. The Oregon Locum Tenens Cooperative (OLTC) was launched in January, 2011.



“In the spring of 2010, our hospital experienced the unexpected resignations of an emergency and a hospitalist physician. Fortunately, we were able to access locums providers through a new program offered through OHSU. Their ability to provide immediate and long-term support in this critical situation literally saved our bacon! It allowed us the time to identify a full time physician and provided us with an extremely economical solution compared to commercial locums companies.”

James Wathen, CEO, Southern Coos Hospital and Health Center



OLTC Program Office Functions

- Maintains and manages the coverage requests of OLTC members up to 6 months in advance.
- Builds the locum tenens workforce via social networks, affiliated professional organizations and regional residency programs.
- Completes primary verification for participating providers, assuring their qualifications.
- Members can access credentialing data and past placement satisfaction surveys to quickly make decisions on providers electing to take assignments.

Member & Community Benefits

- Low cost coverage through direct contracts between sites and providers.
- Access to a pre-screened locum tenens workforce familiar with rural practice.
- Maintains access to care while local providers are absent from practice.
- Available practice relief helps retain community providers.
- Ability to permanently hire the locums' providers at little or no cost.
- Governing body is made up of OLTC members assuring program operations serve communities.
- Low-cost annual membership fees.
- Potential connections to NHSC and State loan repayment programs.

Locums Provider Benefits

- Higher compensation for locums work due to direct contracting.
- Easy access to all available locum tenens postings.
- Medical malpractice covered through each member site at no added cost.
- Allows for variation of practice, giving providers the opportunity to work temporarily in new settings.
- Member sites have been vetted for basic criteria of scope of services and service needs.
- Sites within driving distances and all within the State of Oregon.