

The 2024 HTO CHIP Grant Debrief

Healthier Together Oregon (HTO) is Oregon's 2020-2024 state health improvement plan (SHIP). In the final year of the SHIP, the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division awarded mini grants to 8 organizations. HTO funding supported organizations whose work aligned with their local community health improvement plans (CHIPs) and encouraged new partnerships among local organizations.

The HTO Team took feedback from grantees in the 2023 grant cycle and changed the 2024 grant cycle by increasing the amount of funds available, doubling the timeline to complete projects from 3 months to 6 months, and sharing how applicants can find their local CHIPs to include those priorities into their projects.



8 unique grantees



12 counties reached



\$197,825 awarded



1412+ people served

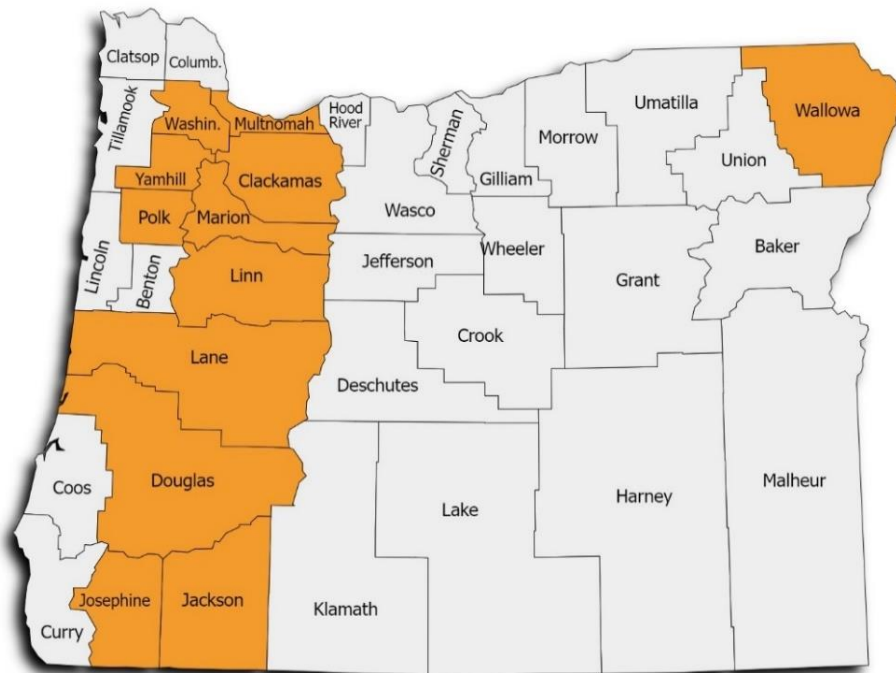
Flexible and creative grant funding make an impact

The 2024 HTO CHIP Grant cycle included 8 grant recipients serving 12 counties. They engaged in projects that supported their local CHIPs from April – September and spent \$179,170 of the \$197,825 total funding amount.

This grant cycle was filled with unique projects from community-based organizations who know what their community needs to be healthy like, education, connection to resources and peers, access to nutritious food, and a sense of belonging.

These community-based organizations created specific responses to meet the unique needs of those they serve with every project tied to advancing health equity.

2024 HTO CHIP Grant Funded Counties



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Woah! Who
did all this
work?

 **33 staff**

 **44+ volunteers**

 **3 interns**

Organizations funded:

- African Community Development Center (ACDC)
- Catholic Community Services of the Mid-Willamette Valley and Central Coast (CCS)
- HIV Alliance
- Sacred Journeys, with Northeast Oregon Network (NEON) as fiscal sponsor
- Rogue Action Center
- Thrive Umpqua
- Whiteaker Community Council (WCC)
- Casa Latinos Unidos

African Community Development Center organized and hosted resources fairs and workshops in partnerships with health care providers. Most of the funding was dedicated to developing a culturally responsive and inclusive education curriculum. Through this curriculum, participants gained knowledge around living well with chronic conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure, and healthy eating habits. They also increased access to dental and behavioral health services and provided access to culturally healthy foods.

Catholic Community Services Fostering Hope Initiative coordinated over 50 events from April through September 2024. Community health workers engaged community members through educational presentations, children's activities, Community Cafes, and promotional materials. They hosted two back to school events providing 120 children with backpacks and school supplies. Attendance at Polk County Summer Fam Jam, August Lancaster Family Health Fair, and the August Community Connection Kids Fest raised awareness of their services and built community connection with families in need. Forming and fostering partnerships (like the Salem Keizer School District and Pacific Pediatrics) contributed to the success of the project and supported increased care coordination for community members utilizing specialized therapeutic services for youth and families in Marion and Polk counties.

HIV Alliance hosted external focus groups to improve their outreach and support services for community members living with HIV and AIDS. They also created an internal affinity group for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) staff to provide and benefit from professional/peer support while serving their community.

Sacred Journeys, with the fiscal sponsorship of NEON (Northeast Oregon Network), brought nature as therapy to the local 2SLGBTIA+ community, survivors of intimate partner

"I am grateful for the experience to connect with others with similar life challenges while camping in nature and be reminded of all the resilience factors that contribute to getting through hard times & seeing those resilience features mirrored in nature. Thanks again to the facilitators and hope they can keep holding this sacred space for others." – community participant

violence, and disabled and low-income community members. This grant helped to purchase equipment, rent space, develop curriculum, and run programs for those who could not otherwise afford this community building experience in Wallowa County.

Rogue Action Center celebrated its first year organizing, planning, and holding Grants Pass PRIDE for Josephine County in 2024. This event saw over 500 attendees, with 46 vendors representing community-based organizations, live performances, small businesses, and Southern Oregon artists. This grant funding made it possible for Grants Pass PRIDE to be free to community and remove financial barriers to participation.

Thrive Umpqua facilitated one Community Action meeting, ten Leadership Team meetings, two Facilitator Trainings, five Community Nutrition Hubs, and four Perinatal Taskforce meetings during their six-month project in Douglas County. This grant strengthened partnership between Thrive Umpqua's Nutrition Hub, the Health Care Coalition of Southern Oregon's Perinatal Taskforce, and the Douglas Public Health Network. Thrive Umpqua made progress through activities that inform a robust community assessment of risk factors related to teen birth rates and low birth weight babies.

**Whiteaker
Community Council**
hosted six community events (online and in person) to educate and provide resources for community members to grow mini home gardens. Partnerships with Eugene Backyard

Farmers, Hummingbird Wholesale, and the Willamette Farm & Food Coalition increased community participation by providing deeper skill sets and resources to families wishing to expand their garden projects.

"The joy expressed by low-income families and seniors in our community was wonderful. During such a time as rising food costs and uncertainty in the world, creating focus on the simple acts of getting your hands in organic soil and watching food grow empowered many community members."

— program participant

Casas Latinos

Unidos served low income, first-generation Latinx immigrant families residing in the Colonia Paz housing complex in Lebanon,

OR. These families shared a goal of economic stability and wellbeing through entrepreneurship and building sustainable micro-enterprises to support individual families and contribute to their communities. This project held 14 events, including business development workshops, planning sessions and community support gatherings as well as three strategic meetings with local partners to enhance resource accessibility and community engagement for participants.

“Este proyecto no solo nos enseñó sobre negocios, sino que también nos unió como comunidad. Nos sentimos más fuertes juntos. “This project not only taught us about business, but it also brought us together as a community. We feel stronger together.”
– community participant

Community is clear: this is a marathon, not a sprint

Timing: The HTO team affirms awardee’s feedback from the 2023 and 2024 CHIP grant cycles that project implementation takes time. Awardees also shared the importance of continued funding opportunities to sustain community health projects longer term. The HTO team continues to incorporate awardee feedback into the planning and implementation of future grant funding opportunities and make improvements where possible. The HTO team would like to express our gratitude to all the CHIP awardees for their time, partnership, and continued efforts in making their communities healthy places to live.

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