

# Oregon HIV and STD Program Prevention Briefs

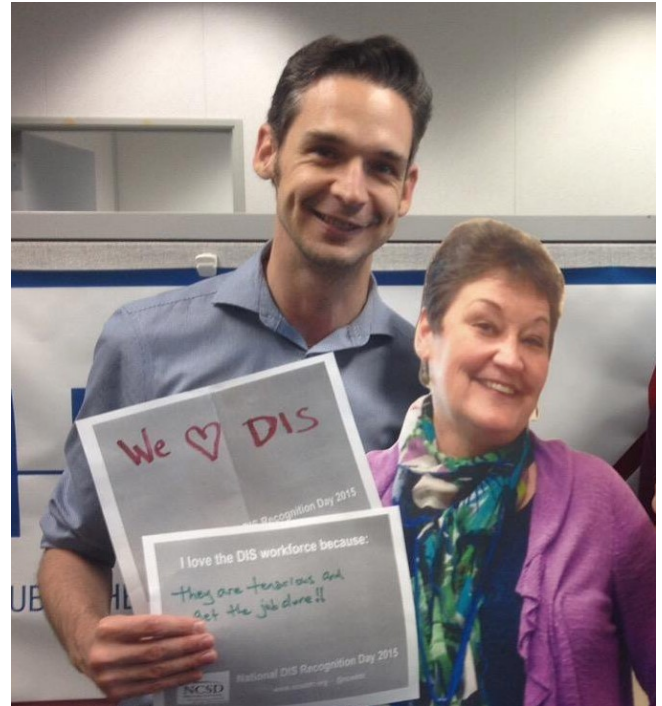
SPRING 2022

Important Information—please read and share



## Farewell, Josh!

After 4 years as OHA's HIV/STD Prevention & Surveillance Manager, 7 ½ years working in the HIV/STD/TB program, and 16 years working in HIV prevention, Josh Ferrer is off to new adventures. He has worked tirelessly to create effective and accessible prevention strategies that meet Oregon residents where they are, improve processes and policies, and support OHA and LPHA staff. We will miss Josh immensely, but know that his future will be bright. Josh's last day working full-time at OHA will be April 20 but he will be back in a temporary part-time basis in May to assist in the transition to a new manager. If you would like to share your well-wishes or goodbyes with Josh [send him an email](#).



## HIV, STD & TB Section Dashboards

The Oregon Health Authority HIV/STD/TB Section provides data with the goals of promoting health equity, addressing gaps and enhancing prevention, testing, and treatment efforts for HIV, STDs, and TB. The End HIV Oregon and HIV Prevention dashboards were recently added to the [HST Dashboard landing page](#). Check back as we'll continue to add more dashboards related to HIV, STD and TB surveillance. [Please email us with your feedback about the dashboards!](#)

## Digital Partner Services Mini Episodes

OHA is offering a series of trainings on Digital Partner Services (DPS), with a new topic every two weeks. These are recorded, and topics include history of DPS, case studies, walking through using a hook-up app for DPS, index cases and contacts, legal and IT information, protocol development, home testing/self-testing, target populations and more! The series began with Episode 0 "In Case You Missed It" on March 23, with a brief introduction on supporting DPS in Oregon and the resources available. [Email Alicia](#) for more information and invitations to future episodes.

## Updated Expedited Partner Therapy Resources

For up-to-date information about Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT), check out OHA's [EPT webpage](#). The page includes updated Guidance for Health Care Professionals in Oregon, fact sheets for providers and pharmacists, and handouts for partners being treated for gonorrhea and chlamydia.

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## New Funding to Support Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) Across Oregon

Last summer, the STD Prevention Program was notified that new five-year funding (American Rescue Plan Act) would be made available through its CDC STD grant to expand HIV/STD partner services and case investigations – with a particular focus on hiring and retaining new Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) in underserved areas and in rural communities to provide more equal access to care.

To ensure DIS capacity is more fully resourced across the state, the OHA STD Program put forward a proposal to the Conference of Local Health Officials (CLHO) that funding be made available to all counties not currently funded under the HIV/STD Early Intervention Services & Outreach (EISO) contracts. This proposal was officially approved at the December 2021 CLHO meeting.

We're pleased to announce that funds have begun to be distributed to counties eligible for the new DIS funding! Two million dollars will be distributed annually to county health departments with funding secure through December 2025. This new funding covers some or all of the staffing costs for 27 staff acting as DIS across the state. Combined with DIS funded by EISO contracts and HIV Prevention funding, there will be 55 staff acting as DIS across the state by the end of 2022!

The HIV/STD Prevention Program is taking a number of actions to support counties across the state with their new and existing DIS staffing:

- A new STD Prevention Specialist position is being hired to coordinate training and provide technical assistance and support to the DIS workforce in Oregon. We hope to have this position filled later this spring.
- A new section has been added to the [STD LHD Resources page](#) with resources for counties hiring and training new DIS. It includes a sample position description, training plan, and links to existing training offerings.
- A contract with the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD) to provide training support and conduct DIS training needs assessments across the state is close to being finalized. NCSD will produce training materials for new and experienced DIS to supplement the new official CDC training for DIS coming this summer.

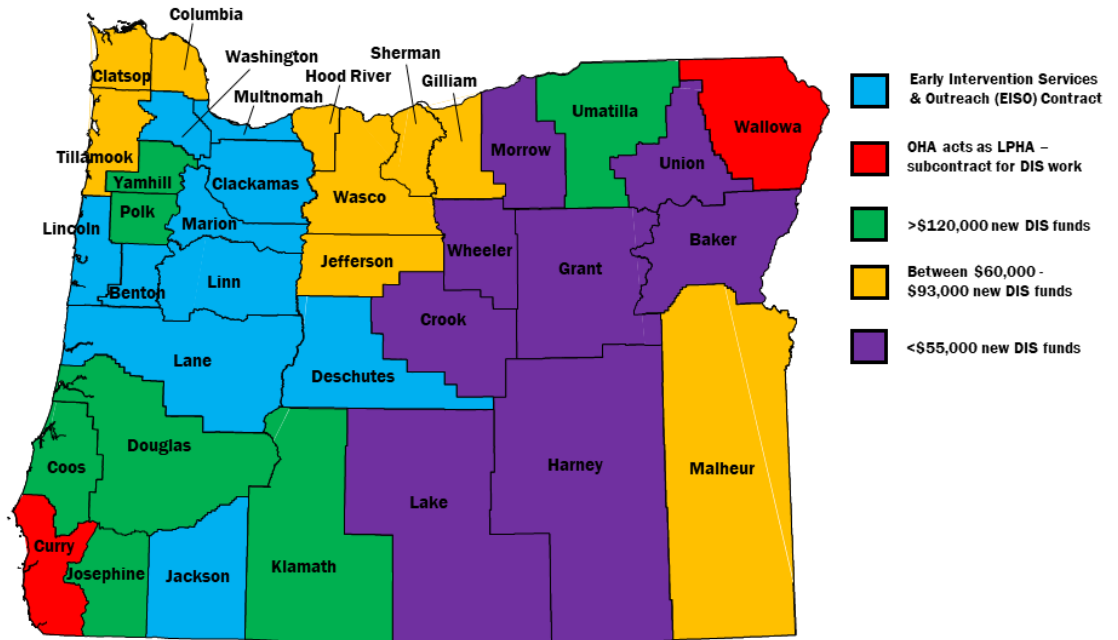
See the map at the top of the next page to see how the funds are distributed across the state.

## Preparing for Pride

Summer is just around the corner, and that means Pride season! OHA has condoms in educational trifold, brochures in several languages, and buttons to promote End HIV Oregon and share the word that U=U. Need some swag? [Email Shelley](#) or fill out our [newly updated online order form](#).



## Funding for HIV/STD DIS in Oregon



## Upcoming Trainings and Events

### Meaningful Care Conference

March 29, 2022

The 2022 Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer + (2SLGBTQ+) Meaningful Care Conference is a day-long training event for healthcare and social service professionals that aims to promote 2SLGBTQ+ cultural competency in health care and social services, share current 2SLGBTQ+ best practices, and to develop and diversify networks of 2SLGBTQ+ culturally competent health care and social service providers.

The 2022 Conference theme is Embracing Community Wisdom: A Trauma-Informed Anti-Racist Lens for 2SLGBTQIA+ Health. [Learn more and register here.](#)

### Subsidized Labs and Special Needs Funding Webinar

March 30, 2022 10 - 11 a.m.

Learn about subsidized screening services available through the Oregon State Public Health Lab and Special Needs Funding, which can be used to increase capacity for jurisdictions that don't receive regular HIV prevention funding and for extra costs associated with HIV and STI cluster, outbreak, or other unusual case investigation.

[Email Javier](#) for more information and the Zoom link.