

Technology and Health



Issues

Modernizing the health care system includes adoption and expansion of emerging technology. This includes:

- Use of electronic medical record technology to provide better health care
- Centralized referral systems that can better address social needs
- Expansion of telehealth to reach more Oregonians

Telehealth is an excellent example of using technology to address barriers to health care. These barriers include lack of culturally specific providers, transportation, provider capacity in rural areas and access to specialty care.

Solutions

Strategies related to digital equity, telehealth, community information exchange and electronic health records:

- Increase affordable access to high-speed internet in rural Oregon
- Expand use of telehealth especially in rural areas and for behavioral health

As proven during the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth has become a useful tool for addressing some Oregonian's health care barriers and Healthier Together Oregon (HTO) calls for expanding its use.

HTO has other goals in this area as well. Just as increased use of checklists in medical care has improved health outcomes for surgery in hospitals, using reminders and prompts in electronic health records software would support providers with the delivery of preventive services.

HTO also seeks to improve the exchange of electronic health record information and data-sharing among providers, making it easier to access patient's personal health information to improve coordination of care.

Finally, HTO seeks to support the development of a system to facilitate referrals with warm handoffs between health care and social services.



HTO: A Plan for Building a Better Oregon

Healthier Together Oregon (HTO) is a powerful tool for improving equity for all Oregonians. As COVID-19 has made starkly clear, not everyone has the same opportunity to live a healthy life. People of color, people with low income, people who identify as LGBTQ+, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities and people who live in rural areas of the state face considerable barriers due to inequities in the social and physical infrastructure that affects health.

of partners across different sectors that share its commitment to these ambitious goals. These sectors include health care, elected officials, employers, philanthropy, transportation, land use and planning, state, tribal and local public health, criminal justice and law enforcement, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, housing and human service providers and education.

Because health and well-being depend on a range of factors, HTO identifies a broad array of strategies that, when addressed and implemented collectively, have the potential to improve the lives of everyone who lives here.

HTO is intended to inform Community Health Improvement Plans as well as agencies' and organizations' priorities, programs and investments. It seeks a variety



Partner With Us

HTO is looking to connect with others committed to advancing equity in Oregon. For more information or to contact us:



WEBSITE

healthiertogetheroregon.org



EMAIL

publichealth.policy@state.or.us



BECOME A PARTNER

healthiertogetheroregon.org/potential-partner



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3jvkuAE



Healthier Together Oregon

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An initiative of the Oregon Health Authority