

What community-initiated project recipients receiving funding in the FY25 Senate LHHS bill are saying about the wins for their communities:

“This major federal investment in support of Central Oregon Community College’s Madras campus expansion will help open a new era of higher learning for the rural communities of Jefferson County,” **said Dr. Laurie Chesley, president of Central Oregon Community College.** “It will directly impact the development of our new learning facility, being built to offer full degree and certificate programs in sought-after health fields like nursing, nursing assistant and medical assistant. Central Oregon is extremely grateful for the work of Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden to make this transformative project a priority.”

“We are grateful for Senators Wyden and Merkley’s steadfast commitment to supporting the wellbeing of Oregon’s youth and their continued advocacy for the Ballmer Institute’s efforts to expand the child behavioral health workforce,” **said Katie McLaughlin, Executive Director, The Ballmer Institute for Children’s Behavioral Health, University of Oregon.** “This funding will make it easier for Oregon families to access high-quality child behavioral health care directly from their pediatrician’s office.”

“Funding for the recovery center will help ensure individuals struggling with substance use disorder receive timely patient-centered support, treatment and resources,” **said Clackamas County Commissioner Ben West.** “Our recovery-oriented system of care approach means that people can get a wide range of services and get help integrating back into their communities.”

"I thank Senators Merkley and Wyden for their leadership and dedication to improving the lives of residents in Southern Oregon's rural communities by supporting Oregon Tech's efforts to expand rural healthcare opportunities in Oregon," **said Oregon Institute of Technology President Nagi Naganathan.** “Once enacted into law, thanks to our Senators, Oregon Tech will roll out two mobile clinics to improve access to dental care and oral health services and enhance dental health equity by providing oral cancer screenings, dental cleanings and x-rays, fluoride treatments, and oral health education to underserved and vulnerable populations in Klamath and Lake Counties.”

"Wasco County is immensely grateful for the hard work of Senator Jeff Merkley and Senator Ron Wyden to help secure funding for the Columbia Gorge Crisis Resolution Center. This critical investment will significantly enhance our community's ability to address mental health needs, provide a safe and supportive environment for individuals in crisis, and will reduce strain on our regional emergency rooms and law enforcement agencies," **said Tyler Stone, Wasco County Administrator.**

“Young people across the country are reaching out for help and support on the YouthLine – and thanks to Senators Merkley and Wyden, volunteers at the YouthLine are there to answer the call. This federal support is helping us build national capacity to support mental wellness, based right here in Oregon – with more YouthLine volunteers answering calls, texts and chats, broader

community engagement, and youth development that is helping us build a behavioral health workforce for tomorrow," **said Dwight Holton, CEO of Lines for Life.**

"We are immensely thankful to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their advocacy and support. This funding will enable Lane Community College to develop cutting-edge curricula and acquire essential equipment for training the next generation of skilled workers in advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity. Our collaboration with industry leaders, bolstered by this funding, will help us meet the evolving needs of the workforce, driving economic vitality and success for our graduates and our region," **said LCC President Stephanie Bulger.**

"Valley Family Health Care, like Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden, are committed to supporting our rural families and communities. To ensure that our rural families can continue to receive health care within their own communities, it is essential that we continue to invest in facilities such as this to provide physical, dental, and behavioral health close to home for our patients. This funding is a significant step in making this dream a reality for the community of Nyssa. Thank you, Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden, for your unwavering support of community health centers like Valley Family and the patients that we serve," **said Ken Hart, CEO, Valley Family Health Care.**

"By working to secure funding for Portland Fire & Rescue's Community Health Overdose Response Program, Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley continue to prioritize the safety and well-being of all Portlanders," **said Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler.** "Their efforts will help improve response times, allow first responders to make better use of limited resources, and—most importantly—save lives."

"More than 3 million children across the country go to school every day without the glasses they need," **said Vision To Learn Founder Austin Beutner.** "Every child in every school, everywhere in the country, should have the glasses they need to succeed in school and in life. Senators Merkley and Wyden's support is helping ensure many more children in Oregon get the vision care they need."

"Today marks a significant milestone for healthcare in Union County as we celebrate the approval of \$1.35M in federal funding for Grande Ronde Hospital's new nuclear medicine machine. This critical investment will not only replace an aging system but also ensures uninterrupted, reliable imaging services for years to come. With this state-of-the-art equipment, Grande Ronde Hospital will drastically reduce treatment times, expand patient capacity, and enhance overall healthcare outcomes in Union County and across Northeastern Oregon. Grande Ronde Hospital's mission is to ensure access to high quality, cost-effective health care for all those in need of our services. Today's news speaks to that commitment. We extend our sincere gratitude to our congressional leaders Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their unwavering support in advancing this vital project," **said Jeremy Davis, President/CEO of Grande Ronde Hospital.**

"This funding will allow Harney County Health District to make critical upgrades to our Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system to ensure we are able to continue serving our community with high-quality health care. These upgrades will also mean increased energy efficiency and financial savings to the District for many years to come. We are grateful to Sens. Merkley and Wyden for their advocacy on our behalf," **said Bob Gomes, CEO, Harney County Health District.**

"We are so grateful that Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden care so deeply about the health and safety of children in our community and are supporting this project. The Amani Center provides Forensic Interviews and Medical Assessments for child victims of abuse/crime and provide support and services for their families and caregivers. This new facility will allow us to serve twice as many children, create space to house a much-needed mental health program and create a trauma-informed place where healing can begin. This project was started with the generous gift to the organization of a piece of property from long-time donors Eric and Christine Dahlgren. Eric tragically passed away during the planning phase of the project, but I know he would be incredibly proud today to know that Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden are supporting this project and are helping to ensure that children in our rural county are able to access the care that they need long into the future, by helping us build this permanent home for our center," **said Amelia Kercher, Amani Center Executive Director.**

"Portland Community College is grateful to Senators Wyden and Merkley, this funding will enable PCC to offer tuition and support to students who are training to become the next generation of mental health workers in our state. Providing highly skilled and culturally responsive mental health training is essential to supporting the most vulnerable members of our community," **said Dr. Adrien Bennings, President of Portland Community College.**

"These funds will result in a dramatic positive impact on addressing the Opioid/Fentanyl Crisis in eastern Oregon communities. Getting incarcerated addicts into effective treatment will result in less crime, reduced prison census, economic gains, and improved health outcomes. Our thanks to Senators Wyden and Merkley for fighting so hard for us," **said Chuck Hofmann, MD, MACP, who is a consultant for Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization.**

"Today marks a pivotal moment for mental health and addiction recovery in Oregon. We at the Mental Health & Addiction Association of Oregon (MHAAO) are profoundly grateful for the passage of the Senate Bill, which has secured essential funding for the MHAAO Recovery Campus. This vital support will allow us to provide peer recovery services to thousands of individuals each year. This funding stands as a testament to our collective commitment to ensure that hope, healing and recovery are accessible and available throughout Oregon and beyond," **said Janie Gullickson, Executive Director & Tara McCarthy, Development Director, MHAAO.**

"Morrow County Health District is very pleased to hear this news. The CT Scanner plays a very important role in assisting providers in diagnosing and making treatment decisions quickly. Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden understand rural healthcare financial challenges and the

need for replacement of vital patient care equipment. Their support of this funding request will help the hospital to continue saving lives,” **said Nicole Mahoney, Chief Operating Officer, Morrow County Health District.**

“Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden understand the healthcare challenges that residents, hospitals, and clinics face throughout rural eastern Oregon. Northeast Oregon Area Health Education Center (NEOAHEC) is thrilled with the investment made by the Senators. The purchase of an advanced obstetric and neonatal patient simulator will allow the regional center to provide hands-on, high-fidelity education critically needed to keep healthcare professionals in a practice ready state to safely care for expectant mothers and new babies,” **said Meredith Lair, Executive Director of NEOAHEC.**