

# Oregon Health Network

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## OREGON HEALTH NETWORK TO BUILD COMPREHENSIVE, ROBUST \$20.2 Million BROADBAND TELEHEALTH NETWORK

Regional Broadband Network to Support Enhanced Access to Quality Health Care and Workforce Development

*Lake Oswego, OR* – The Oregon Health Network (OHN) has been approved by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to receive up to \$20.2 million in funding reimbursement under the Universal Service Fund to build a comprehensive and robust broadband telehealth network that will connect hospitals, clinics and community colleges throughout Oregon. This is the first round of capital project funding that will support the completion of the \$20.2 million project and connect all eligible health care facilities under the FCC's Rural Health Care Pilot Program (RHCPP).

“The FCC's Rural Health Care Pilot Program has given Oregon an unprecedented opportunity to invest \$20.2 million dollars in its broadband infrastructure that will specifically improve the delivery and access of healthcare and healthcare education for all Oregonians,” said Kim Lamb, Executive Director of OHN. “This investment is as critical to our State's health care delivery system as was the first transcontinental railroad in helping shape the Nation's transportation grid in the West back in 1869. It's providing us with a significant jump start; creating a broadband-infrastructure that will go a long way to helping solve many of the State's healthcare, workforce and economic development issues. This network is the first critical step to supporting enhanced access to quality healthcare and workforce development throughout the State of Oregon.”

Oregon Health Network (OHN) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization formed to expand broadband capacity and develop a seamless telehealth network throughout Oregon, in order to support and improve healthcare delivery, healthcare workforce education and overall access to these critical services. The vision of OHN is to make the highest level of healthcare service available everywhere in the state regardless of distance or geography. OHN participants are a cross-section of the state's healthcare and healthcare education providers including hospitals and hospital systems, clinics, and community colleges with health education programs.

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Initially, the FCC implemented a plan to improve the Rural Health Care Program that helps rural healthcare communities obtain broadband connectivity for reduced costs by issuing a nationwide request for proposal (RFP) for their Rural Health Care Pilot Program (RHCPP). A group of committed volunteers from Oregon, with a passion to improve healthcare delivery and access through telemedicine, responded to the RFP with Oregon's plan to build a healthcare network for Oregon; the Oregon Health Network.

Today, the FCC's \$417 million Rural Health Care Pilot program supports 66 broadband telehealth projects across the nation that will eventually support more than 6,000 health care providers once the networks are fully implemented. The Oregon Health Network received the fifth largest award, totaling \$20.2 million dollars under the initiative.

The RHCPP is a five year program, and all contracts must be engaged by June 30, 2010. The \$20.2 million dollar FCC subsidy is paid directly to the network service providers selected through competitive bidding. The subsidy, paid for by the universal services fund, not tax dollars, pays for 85% of all eligible non-recurring (installation) and recurring (monthly service) costs for OHN members over the duration of the program. This \$20.2 million dollar investment in Oregon's broadband infrastructure presents an unprecedented opportunity for Oregon's healthcare and health education community to build a seamless telehealth network to address critical needs in healthcare delivery, education and workforce development. This state-of-the-art "network of networks" will have the quality, capacity and scalability to support the current and future healthcare applications and services necessary to meet Oregon's growing demand

The OHN project is among the first in the nation to begin deployment of their broadband network under the FCC's Rural Health Care Pilot Program. To date, eight telehealth projects eligible to receive USF funding reimbursement under the FCC's Rural Health Care Pilot program have begun deploying their broadband networks.

To learn more about Oregon Health Network and to take advantage of the FCC's RHCPP subsidy, please visit: [www.oregonhealthnet.org](http://www.oregonhealthnet.org).

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