

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 30, 2010**

**CONTACT:** [Kim Lamb](#), Executive Director, (503) 344-3742  
[Dianne Danowski Smith](#), Publix Northwest, (503) 201-7019

## **SEVEN OREGON HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS AWARDED SUBSIDY BY FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

*Across miles and through walls, rural and urban health care providers team up with [Oregon Health Network](#) to build Oregon's first telehealth network*

(Portland, Ore.) – Seven health care organizations at 12 sites have each received a funding commitment letter from the Federal Communications Commission confirming each will receive money to fund up to 85 percent of costs to build out or grow their respective broadband infrastructure to support telemedicine and telehealth applications.

These sites are:

- St. Charles Health System, Bend, Redmond and Prineville
- Siletz Tribal Health Clinics, Siletz
- Bay Area Hospital's Women's Imaging Center, Coos Bay
- Umpqua Community Health Centers: Drain, Glide, Myrtle Creek, Roseburg High School and Roseburg Health Center
- Clackamas Community College's Harmony Campus, Clackamas
- Outside In Medical Clinic, Portland

The [Oregon Health Network](#) will fund the remaining 15 percent cost of broadband construction and installation as part of the FCC's [Rural Health Care Pilot Program \(RHCPP\)](#). This funding comes from our supporters from the Department of Education, the Governor's Strategic Reserve Fund, and Community College Workforce Development (CCWD) who all are committed to strengthening Oregonian's access to healthcare and healthcare education opportunities with the use of technology. The organizations will each pay the remaining 15 percent for ongoing, monthly broadband service costs over the duration of the 5-year program, through May 2014.

Says funding recipient St. Charles Health System's President and CEO Jim Diegel, "This award will support St. Charles Health System's goal of developing an integrated health information technology system that will ultimately make care more efficient, better integrated and seamless to both the patient and the providers." He adds that the funding will benefit the entire Central Oregon region by connecting doctors, nurses, pharmacists, imaging staff and educators and increasing coordination of care.

"A significant barrier we see is that rural and urban providers often lack quality broadband access, equipment and resources," says [Kim Lamb, OHN's executive director](#). "Emerging technologies and applications can be challenging to implement and select, so we are all very excited that these 12 sites joining a growing number of providers in Oregon who are bringing technology to provide better care for patients."

With health care delivery and cost concerns on the rise, “it’s proving critical for providers of all sizes, designations and in all locations to better use health information technology,” says [Lamb](#). “It’s no longer a like-to-have, now it’s a must-have.”

Oregon’s maturing [telemedicine network](#) might enable a physician to send or receive x-ray images; a patient to visit with physicians live over video for immediate care; or might capture video/still images and health record data to be stored and sent to physicians for diagnosis and follow-up treatment at a later time. The important process of having high quality and secure electronic transfer of data can help specialists and clinicians deliver care to patients more efficiently, no matter where the hospital or the clinic is geographically located.

OHN provides high-speed, high quality, broadband connectivity for electronic medical records, radiological images, videoconferencing, and distance education applications which will expand the use of telemedicine and telehealth education in Oregon. The network also connects providers to each other, reducing the cost of health care in rural communities by minimizing duplicate efforts and time, obtaining correct patient information, procedure codes and referrals, and much more. Twenty-one sites in Oregon are live on OHN’s broadband telehealth network with 24/7 monitoring by the [Network Operations Center](#).

This award is part of the FCC’s RHCPP \$20.2 million total subsidy awarded to Oregon for full deployment of the critical first phase of the infrastructure necessary to build the first statewide, broadband, telehealth network in Oregon. Through the [RHCPP](#), [OHN](#) is working to bring on as many as 200 eligible hospitals, clinics, community colleges and government facilities onto its managed, high-speed, broadband network.

Nationally, \$417 million has been allocated within the FCC RHCPP to subsidize hundreds of hospitals, providers and clinics representing 42 states, three territories and more than 6,000 health providers. In total, 33 sites have received funding commitment letters to date. Upward of 200 sites are currently actively participating in OHN’s RHCPP process.

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#### **About the Oregon Health Network**

*[Oregon Health Network \(OHN\)](#) administers a \$20.2 million Federal Communications Commission subsidy and more than \$3.8 million in state funding to create Oregon’s first state-wide broadband telehealth network. OHN is a nonprofit, member organization connecting and serving physicians, allied providers, clinics, health organizations, educators, students, government agencies, and businesses who are critical to improving the quality, access and delivery of health care to Oregonians. Please visit our [Website](#) for additional information.*