

Oregon Health Network



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Category #3: Excellence in Telecommunications Partnerships

Individual, organization or company that has developed an innovative telecommunications partnership for the purpose of providing improved access, reliability and/or affordability for underserved and rural communities.

The Oregon Health Network (OHN) has been successful in implementing an innovative strategy to provide better access, reliability and affordability to telecommunications services for health care providers/patients and health care educators/students in underserved and rural regions of Oregon with funding from the FCC's Rural Health Care Pilot Program (RHCPP). OHN now has 164 participants on and being connected to its quality-of-service-managed network with an additional 77 sites currently in the RFP phase. To date, installations have resulted in over 85 miles of new fiber to connect participant locations with additional builds yet to be completed. OHN expands daily and now offers a packaged videoconferencing solution for its participants.

OHN has enjoyed the support of Oregon's entire congressional delegation, two Governors, and the State Legislative Assembly. OHN is viewed by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and by the FCC as one of the most successful projects in the RHCPP due to OHN being one of the few state-wide network projects, its large number of *independent* participants, the large number of network service providers, its competitive business model, OHN's successful draw down and use of funds, OHN's development of best practices in program management, and OHN's leadership in recommending improvements to the RHCPP.