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**OREGON HEALTH NETWORK ANNOUNCES**  
**FCC DEADLINE EXTENSION**

*FCC subsidy will support Oregon's first telehealth network*

(Portland, Ore.) – The Federal Communications Commission has notified the [Oregon Health Network](#) (OHN) that it will extend a key participation deadline from June 30, 2010 to June 30, 2011 for the Rural Health Care Pilot Program (RHCPP). This extension provides OHN and its participants the extended time to implement the FCC's \$20.2 million subsidy in Oregon. The extension makes way for full deployment of the critical first phase of the infrastructure necessary to build Oregon's first state-wide broadband telehealth network.

Through the RHCPP, [OHN](#) is working to bring on as many as 200 eligible hospitals, clinics, community colleges and government facilities onto its high speed digital network. This deadline extension provides OHN and all the other RHCPP projects nationwide with more time to gain the greatest amount of support and participation from current and future eligible sites. Additionally, the extension provides more time for OHN, its participants and contracted telecommunications providers to navigate the pilot's comprehensive telecommunications vendor bidding and contract negotiation process.

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 effectively leverage technology," said [Kim Lamb](#), executive director of Oregon Health Network. "It's no longer a like to have, now it's a must have." She adds, "With the growing demand for electronic medical records, meaningful use mandates and real-time telehealth applications and services on the rise, the greatest barrier to use by most providers is in having the broadband infrastructure required to support those applications."

OHN provides high-speed connectivity for electronic medical records, radiological images, videoconferencing, and distance education applications which will expand the use of telemedicine in



Oregon. The network also connects providers to each other, and reduces the cost of health care in rural communities by reducing duplicate efforts and time, obtaining correct patient information, obtaining procedure codes and referrals, and much more.

Nationally, \$417 million has been allocated within the FCC RHCPP to subsidize hundreds of hospitals, providers and clinics in 17 states. Six sites in Oregon are operational and being monitored 24/7 on OHN's broadband telehealth network, including two campuses at Blue Mountain Community College, three campuses at Oregon Coast Community College and at Wallowa Memorial Hospital. As many as 23 additional sites have received their funding commitment letters and are expected to go live shortly after installation. Upwards of 200 sites are currently actively participating in OHN's RHCPP process.

The [FCC announced the extension](#) on February 18, 2010.

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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.