



NEWS RELEASE

For more information:
Kim Lamb, Executive Director, (503) 344-3742
Ashley Kordestani, Edelman, (503) 451-6865

May 6, 2011

FCC EXTENDS COMMITMENT PERIOD FOR RURAL HEALTH CARE PILOT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Oregon Health Network among 23 of 62 federal pilot program participants receiving the extension nationwide.

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Oregon Health Network (OHN) announced today that the FCC has extended the commitment period for all qualifying rural health care pilot program participants through June 2012. This extension gives qualifying participants an additional year to utilize FCC-allocated funds in the effort to build a nationwide telemedicine network. Without the extension, programs like OHN would have been forced to return any unallocated program funds to the FCC in June 2011.

“We appreciate the FCC’s decision to extend the RHCPP commitment period,” said Kim Lamb, executive director of OHN. “We now have an additional year to use the remaining \$3.8 million balance of OHN’s original \$20.2 million subsidy. This added timeframe further supports our efforts to build Oregon’s first broadband health care highway.”

Lamb estimates that in the new timeframe OHN will be able to add an additional 40 urban and rural participants to its 154-member network, a move that will help expand the broadband network already underway. “This is great news for the state of Oregon because in addition to providing all Oregonians with access to health care, the broadband network we are building also provides workforce , economic and emergency response opportunities that could not exist without the new broadband infrastructure” said Lamb.

The Oregon Health Network is a 501(c)(3) membership-based non-profit organization building the first broadband telehealth network in Oregon. Its mission is to provide all Oregonians, regardless of location, with access to the best possible health care. OHN currently serves more than 150 urban and rural hospitals, clinics and community colleges in every district in the state. For more information, visit www.oregonhealthnet.org.