

HB 3123:

Strengthening Oregon's Behavioral Health System by Leveraging Federal Support to Sustain Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics

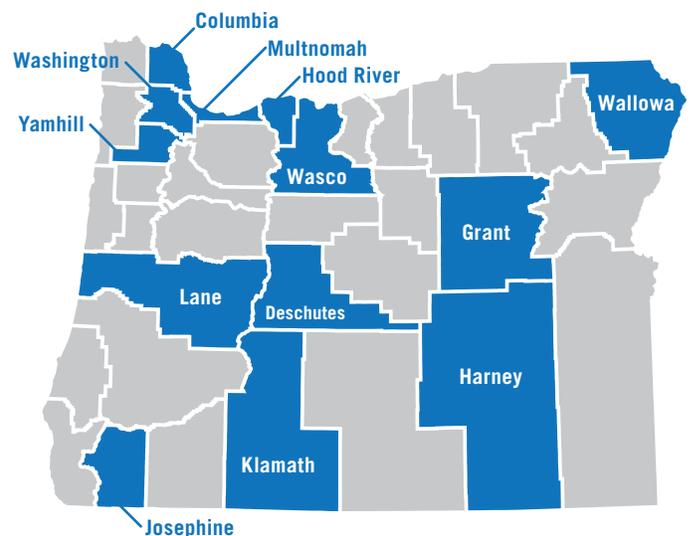
In 2016, Oregon was selected as one of an elite group of eight states poised to transform access to mental health and addiction services through the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) program. This program has drawn down tens of millions of dollars in federal funds, supporting Oregon's 12 CCBHCs in making significant strides toward curbing the opioid epidemic, reducing suicide, and bringing thousands of Oregonians with untreated mental illness or addiction into care—all while improving collaboration with primary care partners and strengthening our state's place as a national leader in integrated care.

The federal government, led by Oregon's congressional delegation, has repeatedly acted to extend the program beyond the original period for which Oregon appropriated funding. In the most recent Federal COVID Response Package, the program has been extended through September of 2023. The Emergency Board recently allocated gap funding to keep the program operational through the end of the current biennium, but in order for Oregon to continue drawing down the program's incredible 4:1 federal match for the '21-'23 biennium, the State must provide additional funding in 2021.

By passing **HB 3123** Oregon can continue making progress and protect the program infrastructure that has become even more critical during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Why CCBHCs?

The CCBHC initiative is a national movement to define, improve and standardize behavioral healthcare. It aligns with and advances Oregon's progress toward value-based purchasing and fully integrated care. All CCBHCs must meet standards regarding the scope of evidence-based services, staffing, and timeliness of access that are considered the gold standard for high-quality behavioral health care delivery. CCBHCs' activities emphasize 24/7 crisis response (including mobile crisis teams), care coordination, and collaboration with hospitals and law enforcement to assist individuals living with the most complex and severe needs. In addition to federal requirements, Oregon requires all CCBHCs to provide 20 hours of on-site primary care directly or through partnership with a federally qualified health center.



What have CCBHCs achieved?

Since launching, CCBHCs in Oregon have dramatically increased access to mental health and addiction treatment, developed programs for veterans, expanded capacity to address the opioid crisis and established innovative partnerships with law enforcement and hospitals. Among their accomplishments:

- Treated 17% more people with severe and persistent mental illnesses than before the demonstration period;
- Embedded primary care in behavioral health centers;
- Expanded access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction;
- Improved health outcomes through innovative programs and practices to proactively support individuals at risk for developing chronic conditions;
- Created jobs and increased their workforce by hiring both behavioral and physical health providers who are typically difficult to recruit, such as psychiatrists and prescribers;
- Sharply reduced wait times for services, allowing clients to be served faster and improving their engagement in care.
- Improved physical health outcomes for patients with complex medical needs—As an example, Cascadia's diabetes self-management group program resulted in an average A1c decrease of .5%, resulting in significant improvements in health among CCBHC participants.

This is real progress. But it's only the beginning, and the work must continue.

Reducing Costs to the State

Through efforts to divert people who are unable to aid and assist in their own defense from the Oregon State Hospital (OSH) and provide better care coordination in the community, Klamath Basin Behavioral Health has saved OSH costs of \$12.6 million since 2016.

Through a data-driven effort to identify and intervene early with patients at high risk of emergency department (ED) utilization, Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare has generated \$1.65 million in savings from reduced ED visits.

Why is additional funding needed?

Oregon's congressional delegation has led the way in enacting multiple federal extensions of the CCBHC initiative, the most recent extension means the program will continue through September of 2023. Additional funding is needed to secure continuation of the program and support our state's evaluation efforts for the remainder of the biennium.

Without these funds, Oregon's CCBHCs will be forced to give up our place in the federal demonstration leaving critical funds on the table resulting in decreased access, scaled back services, and staff layoffs.

Passing **HB 3123** will give Oregon the opportunity to continue leveraging additional federal financial support and sustain the valuable infrastructure built over the past four years.

