CENTRAL
OREGON
HEALTH
QUALITY
ALLIANCE

2026 Grant Program Information

The 2026 Central Oregon Health Quality Alliance (COHQA) Grant Program will open on February 23, 2026. **Grant applications must be submitted via email to info@cohqa.org by 5:00pm on April 6, 2026.**

About COHQA

COHQA's mission is empowering innovation and collaboration with independent healthcare professionals providing care to patients every day.

At COHQA, we believe in being:

❖ Curious – We thrive on new and promising ideas.
❖ Trusting – We embrace the knowledge and experience of people closest to the work.
❖ Open – We learn from success, failure and everything in between.
❖ Collaborative – We believe diverse perspectives create great work and big impact.

COHQA's sister organization, the Central Oregon Independent Practice Association (COIPA), has long recognized the exciting, innovative ideas coming from their network of providers to improve healthcare delivery. As healthcare experts on the ground, local providers are intimately connected with their patients and living the realities of providing care in an imperfect healthcare system. They can identify clearly what needs to change to improve health outcomes yet often lack the funding and capacity to make those great ideas happen. So, in 2013, COIPA created a grant program to foster and fund innovative local solutions that address local healthcare challenges with the hope of sharing lessons learned among the healthcare community. The program has been funded by COIPA providers and clinic's earnings from the Oregon Health Authority's Quality Incentive Program; essentially reinvesting their annual reward for providing high quality care to fund their colleagues' most innovative ideas to continue improving care.

In 2016, COIPA supported the creation of the Central Oregon Health Quality Alliance (COHQA) to house the grant program and expand supporting projects and initiatives beyond the COIPA network. While COIPA has fully funded COHQA's work to drive healthcare innovation from ideas to adoption over the years, 2026 will be the last year of COHQA's annual grant program.

The grant program has grown to fund not just provider-led innovation but community-led innovation, in turn strengthening the collaborative spirit between our providers, clinics, community organizations, and patients in finding solutions to healthcare issues.

COHQA Grant Program

Total Funding Available**:** $200,000

Maximum Award per Applicant: $40,000

Grant Program Timeline:

- Monday, February 23, 2026 – Grant Cycle Opens
- Monday, April 6, 2026 – Grant Cycle Closes
- Friday, May 29, 2026 – Awards Announced
- Friday, June 19, 2026 – Checks Mailed
- Friday, January 29 – Mid Year Report Due
- Friday, August 6 – Final Report Due

Eligibility

To be eligible for this grant opportunity, grant applicants must:

- Be an independent healthcare provider, clinic, public health agency or community-based organization directly working in healthcare.
- Be directly serving patients or demonstrate collaboration with a provider or clinic who is serving patients though a letter of commitment.
- Be located within the counties of Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Lake, Wheeler, Wasco, Sherman, Hood River, Skamania, and Klickitat
- Grant applicants DO NOT need to be a 501-c3 to apply.

It is required that you meet with COHQA before you complete an application. The purpose of this informal meeting is to:

- *Discuss our funding priorities*
- *Confirm eligibility*
- *Provide more details about the application*
- *Provide information about how applications are evaluated*
- *Answer any questions applicants may have*

COHQA has found this helps save applicants time and effort, as well as strengthens proposals.
Grant applicants can schedule an appointment here: https://calendly.com/ppritchard_cohqa

Funding Priorities

Grant applicants must align with COHQA's mission and reasonably complete the project within one year. COHQA is particularly interested in projects that focus on improving health outcomes for communities experiencing the greatest barriers to health and wellbeing. Additional priority will be given to projects supporting residents living in areas that have not historically been funded by COHQA such as Crook, Lake, Wheeler, Sherman, Skamania, and Klickitat counties.

- **Provider-Led Health Care Innovation:**
    - Projects that strengthen care delivery, clinical practices, or patient experience. Strong proposals will demonstrate:

- ▪ The innovative in nature, meaning it has not been done before and differs from day to day operations.
        - ▪ Clear benefits for communities experiencing the greatest barriers to health and wellbeing.
        - ▪ Inclusion of patient, caregiver, or frontline staff feedback in project design.
        - ▪ Contributions toward the Quadruple Aim: Improved quality, reduced cost, improved patient experience, and improved provider and staff wellbeing.
- **Community-Led Health Care Innovation:**
    - o Projects that are created, shaped, or led by consumers of healthcare. COHQA encourages:
        - ▪ Community-driven problem identification and solution design.
        - ▪ Equitable partnerships between patients, community-based organizations and healthcare partners (independent providers, clinics, hospitals, social service, public health, EMS, etc.).
        - ▪ Approaches that elevate community voice, honor lived experience, and address inequities in access, trust, and care.
- **Clinical Integration and Multi-Sector Coordination:**
    - o Projects that strengthen collaboration across clinics, hospitals, social service, public health, EMS and community sectors. Priority considerations include:
        - ▪ Efforts that close gaps for patients experiencing the greatest barriers to health and wellbeing.
        - ▪ Coordination models that reduce fragmentation and improve continuity of care.
        - ▪ Use of reliable data, resources, and shared decision-making in ways that support equitable outcomes.

Other Considerations
- The healthcare community WILL be able to learn from or replicate this project.
- The project will have a significant community health impact and/or significant impact on health care delivery. It is evident return on investment would be high.
- The proposal has clear goals and presents a solid strategy for achieving them (i.e. Necessary infrastructure/organizational capacity is in place to successfully complete the project within one year).
- The proposal has a clear and realistic explanation of how data will be collected to measure results.
- The project is cost effective and expenses are directly linked to activities and outcomes.

Funding WILL be made available for expenses related to:
- Personnel salaries are directly attributed to designing, implementing, and/or evaluating the project
- Training
- Improved patient care processes, including program development and designated clinic and/or provider time
- Data collection and analysis
- Computer software/hardware, if integral and in support of initiative
- General supplies, in support of initiative
- Patient care is not otherwise reimbursable by government or private insurance coverage
- Up to 10 percent indirect or overhead costs which include expenses that are not directly part of the project but necessary for the implementation of grant activities. For example, administrative

salaries, facility costs, utilities, maintenance, general office supplies, software licenses, IT support, legal fees, insurance, depreciation costs

Funding WILL NOT be made available for expenses related to:
- Capital campaigns or infrastructure remodeling
- Long term studies or research
- Medical equipment

**Medical equipment requests were previously accepted during the 2025 grant cycle as there was a one-time special fund available.

Review Process

COHQA's grant review committee is made up of folks from various backgrounds who live in both rural and urban communities. They are paid a stipend for their participation and expertise. Applications are first scored using a numerical rubric and then ranked based on their score. The review committee meets to discuss each application and is given the opportunity to seek additional information from the applicant. The executive director takes the committee's questions and gathers additional information from the applicants. The additional information is shared back with the review committee. The committee meets for a second time to discuss and finalize their selection of grant applicants. The grant applicants are then notified via email if they were awarded or not.
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We acknowledge that sometimes the best ideas are from people who simply don't have time to fill out grant applications, are unfamiliar with grant application processes, or face other barriers. We are here to help you make this as easy as possible. If any part of this application process is a hurdle for you, please let us know and we will find a way to support you. This could be through grant writing support, fleshing out an idea into a plan, budget planning, facilitating partnerships for a project, language translation, or whatever needs you identify.

If you would like support, reach out to COHQA's Executive Director, Penny Pritchard at ppritchard@coipa.org.