



In this edition, you'll find the latest on American Rescue Plan funding, COVID-19 vaccine information and resources, OPCA's policy update, the May editions of the Operations and HR Leaders peer group news, the Health Equity and SDH Newsletter, APCM Update, clinician focused content, upcoming OPCA events, Oregon CHCs in the news, and much more content meant to inform and help you do your work better.

Thank you for reading.

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## **HHS Announces \$1 Billion in ARP Funds for Construction and Renovation Projects**

As part of the American Rescue Plan, HHS announced \$1 billion for HRSA-Health Center Program funded health centers to support major construction and renovation projects.

Join the general overview session for applicants on **Thursday, May 6, 11:30 am-1 pm PT**

[Join the day of the session](#)

or join by phone: 833-568-8864; when prompted, enter webinar ID: 160 936 3792

Applications are due in HRSA's Electronic Handbooks (EHBs) by 2pm PT on June 24. Visit the American Rescue Plan funding for Health Center Construction and Capital Improvements [technical assistance \(TA\) webpage](#) for award submission guidance, information about upcoming question and answer sessions, and other resources.

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## American Rescue Plan Funding for Health Center Program Look-Alikes

HHS [announced the availability of nearly \\$150 million](#) to community-based health care providers to aid their response to COVID-19. These funds will support approximately 100 Health Center Program look-alikes (LALs) to respond to and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, support vaccination efforts, and enhance health care services and infrastructure in communities across the country.

Join a Q&A session for applicants on **Thursday, May 6, 9-10am PT**

[Join the day of the session](#)

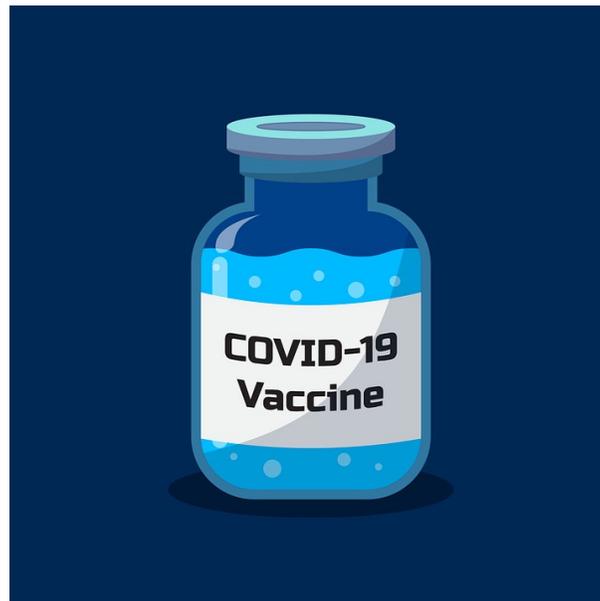
or by phone, 833-568-8864; when prompted, enter meeting/webinar ID: 161 902 0776

[Visit the TA webpage](#) for a complete list of eligible LALs, application instructions, deadlines, and other resources. Applications are due in Grants.gov by 8:59 p.m. PT on Friday, May 14. Additional information is [available on the FAQs webpage](#).

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## COVID-19 Vaccine Effort at Oregon CHCs: Latest News and Resources

**Vaccine Optimization:** OPCA has been having conversations with Gov. Kate Brown's office, OHA, HRSA, FEMA, and the Biden Administration on strategies to optimize vaccine availability in our state, meet equity goals, and ultimately, get more Oregonians vaccinated. The Biden Administration views Community Health Centers as integral to our state's vaccination campaign and in achieving equity in rates of vaccination. OPCA will be continuing our work with federal and state partners along with member health centers to explore opportunities and strategies to get more people vaccinated throughout our state. We hope you can join us for additional conversation around this during the next **OPCA COVID-19 Member Briefing on May 12 at 2 pm**.



**Latest Resources**

- ♦ [OHA Announces Oregon Will Resume Johnson & Johnson Vaccinations](#)
- ♦ [Johnson & Johnson/Janssen EAU Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine](#)
- ♦ [English](#) and [Spanish](#) Johnson & Johnson/Janssen EAU Fact Sheets for Recipients and Caregivers
- ♦ [OHA Strategies for Minimizing Vaccine Waste](#)
- ♦ [HHS Vaccine Hesitancy map](#)
- ♦ All4Oregon Vaccine Confidence Videos: Featuring physicians who assure communities that the vaccines are safe and effective. Both contain English and Spanish captions that can be turned on. [Video 1](#), [Video 2](#)
- ♦ HHS Communication Tools: [COVID-19 Care for Uninsured Individuals](#), which includes patient and provider fact sheets in English and Spanish
- ♦ Safe + Strong “Vaccine Answers”/“Preguntas Frecuentes sobre la Vacuna” videos available in English and Spanish on [OHA's YouTube Channel](#)

### **OPCA COVID-19 Vaccine Workgroup**

To support you in the development of your COVID vaccine programs, OPCA is leading a COVID-19 Vaccine Workgroup. This workgroup includes monthly calls, and a Google Group that provides a forum for peers to communicate and where up-to-date, pertinent information is shared. Sign-up by emailing [tcook@orpca.org](mailto:tcook@orpca.org). Calls take place on the **last Wednesday of the month, 8:30-9:30am PT**.

### **OHA Hosting Virtual Vaccine Learning Collaborative**

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Transformation Center, in partnership with the OHA Vaccine Planning Unit, is hosting a [learning collaborative](#) for clinics newer to COVID immunizations to learn not only from subject matter experts but other health center peers. Topics such as operational workflows, allocations, targeting high risk populations, vaccine hesitancy, and more will be covered. **Noon-1pm PT every other Friday**.

The latest COVID-19 news and information can be found on [OPCA's COVID-19 Resources page](#).

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## **COVID-19: Latest Oregon CHC Response Numbers; Monthly Member Briefings**

# OREGON HEALTH CENTERS' RESPONSE TO COVID-19

As of April 23, 2021



The Health Resources and Services Administration is surveying health centers weekly to track their COVID-19 response and their patient and staff impacts. This week, **82% (28/34)** of health centers & look-alike health centers responded. As of April 2020, when survey collection started, **over 52,000** health center patients have been tested for COVID-19 and **37,850** patient vaccinations have been completed.

## Health Centers are Rapidly Adapting to Meet Testing Needs in Their Communities



**4** had a mobile van event



**23** had a pop-up clinic

### This week's COVID-19 vaccinations:

**7,900**

Vaccinations were initiated

**49%**

of vaccinations initiated were racial and/or ethnic minority patients



**6,554**

Vaccinations were completed

**51%**

of vaccinations completed were racial and/or ethnic minority patients

HRSA Weekly COVID-19 survey summary report for Oregon as of April 23, the latest information available. Click on the image for the full two-page summary.

## COVID-19 Member Briefings Take Place Once a Month

**WHAT:** OPCA now hosts a **monthly** COVID-19 briefing to provide information and resources for CHCs. During this briefing, you can ask questions about emerging practices, policies, or issues with your COVID response.

**WHEN:** May 12 and June 16, from 2-3pm PT

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** Open to all members

**QUESTIONS or CALENDAR INVITE:** Email [events@orpca.org](mailto:events@orpca.org)

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## Policy Updates That Matter to Health Centers

Read the latest on Oregon's extended state of emergency, the Biden Administration's American Family Plan announcement, Senate earmarks, and more in the [May 2021 Policy Update.](#)

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## 11 CHCs Get Funds to Increase Vaccinations for Underserved, BIPOC Communities

Kaiser Permanente Northwest is partnering with the Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA) on a \$1.1 million grant initiative to increase vaccination rates among underserved and BIPOC communities in Oregon. [Read the April 15 news release.](#)

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## NHSC Loan Repayment Program Applications Open Until May 6

Three [National Health Service Corps](#) (NHSC) programs recently opened their application cycles for up to \$100,000 in assistance. The [NHSC Loan Repayment Program \(LRP\)](#), the [NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce LRP](#), and the [NHSC Rural Community LRP](#) applications will remain open until **May 6 at 4:30pm PT**.

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## Oregon Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program

The Oregon Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program (OBHLRP) is now open for provider applications. OBHLRP supports rural and underserved communities in the recruitment and retention of high quality mental and behavioral health providers. These providers work in inpatient, outpatient, and community care settings serving patients regardless of their source of coverage (Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, etc.). OBHLRP accepts applications from Qualified Mental Health Associates (QMHA's), Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHP's), pre-licensed and licensed mental and behavioral health care providers; in exchange for service at a qualifying practice site, participants receive tax free funds to repay qualifying educational loan debt.

Eligible providers are encouraged to apply as early in the application cycle as possible to allow time for information requests from ORH. Completed applications, and all required attachments, must be submitted no later than **5pm PT on June 24**. For more information, visit the [program's webpage](#).

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## New Telehealth Service Recommendations

The Oregon Health Leadership Council recently released a resource for [Telehealth Service Recommendations for Adult Primary Care](#). "These recommendations are meant to provide supplementary guidance to primary care providers in determining whether an adult patient's condition is clinically appropriate for telehealth care, which telehealth modality would be the most beneficial, and when an in-person visit may be necessary."

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## Read the Latest Peer Group News

The May editions of the following newsletters are available to read:

- ♦ [HR Leaders Peer Group News](#)
- ♦ [Operations Peer Group News](#)

You can find past editions of the Operations Peer Group News, HR Leaders Peer News, and the Integrated Clinic Peer Group News on [OPCA's Peer Groups page](#). Peer Group newsletters are curated by OPCA staff who lead these groups.

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## Read the Latest Health Equity & SDH Newsletter



**REGISTER NOW!**

### **HPSA Update Webinar: Previews & Score Changes**

**WHAT:** To prepare for upcoming HPSA score previews and changes, OPCA will host a webinar with guest speaker Marc Overbeck, Director of the Primary Care Office at Oregon Health Authority. This webinar will provide an overview of upcoming HPSA score changes, options for score re-evaluations, and a 2021 timeline.

**WHEN:** Monday, May 24, 8am PT

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** All members are welcome to attend

[Learn more and register here](#)

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### **Oregon CHCs in the News**

A collection of news and announcements about Oregon CHCs:



**Waterfall Community Health Center** was featured in this March 24 The World article about a new therapy youth center that opened in Coos Bay: [More than a playground: Waterfall brings therapy services to youth with autism](#)



**Aviva Health's** vaccine efforts were featured in this April 1 KPIC4 story: [More vaccines being delivered to rural Douglas County residents](#)



**Klamath Health Partnership's** vaccine efforts were featured highlighted in this April 7 Klamath Falls News article: [950 People vaccinated at drive-thru clinic at fairgrounds](#)



**Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic's** vaccine efforts were featured in this April 14 news release: [Governor Kate Brown Visits Vaccine Clinic at Salud Medical Center in Woodburn](#)



**The Community Health Centers of Benton & Linn Counties'** vaccine efforts were featured in this April 15 Corvallis Gazette-Times article: [Rural vaccination efforts ramping up in Linn, Benton](#)



**Neighborhood Health Center's** vaccine efforts were featured in this Regal Courier's April 27 article: [Washington County looks to vaccine event for homeless in May](#)



**One Community Health's** role in helping vaccinate migrant seasonal farmworkers in Hood River was highlighted in OHA's Coronavirus Update on April 27: [Some folks can go to work, get vaccinated](#)



**Winding Waters** was featured in this The Observer article on April 27: [Integrated care facility nears completion](#)



**White Bird Clinic's** vaccine efforts were featured in this April 28 Eugene Weekly article: [Drag Queen and Vaccines: A clinic for our BIPOC and LGBTQIA++ Community](#)



**Mosaic Medical's** vaccine efforts were featured in this April 29 The Bulletin article: [Bend High kicks off series of high school-based COVID-19 vaccine clinics for teens](#)



**Wallace** opened a new health center site in Downtown Rockwood today, May 5. See the announcement in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

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## Spotlight on Staff: Introducing OPCA's CHC Transformation Director



Brooke Linn is excited to support the community and work to address disparities by providing comprehensive, person-centered health care training, technical assistance and resources in her new role as OPCA's CHC Transformation Director.

Brooke was Director of Health Centers Programs and co-chair for the Coalition of Community Health Clinics (CCHC) at the National University of Natural Medicine (NUNM) before joining OPCA in April.

[Read more about Brooke in today's Spotlight on Staff blog post.](#)

*Inspired by the 2020 National Health Center Week theme, Lighting the Way for Communities Today and in the Future, OPCA launched the Spotlight on Staff blog for members to get to know OPCA staff a little better.*

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## Media & Resources:

- OPCA has developed a [toolkit](#) to inform patients that clinics are still open and services are still available during the pandemic. Included in the toolkit is a one-page flyer and social media graphics for Facebook and Twitter in 11 languages.
- Follow OPCA's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to see member posts on COVID-19 vaccination efforts.
- OPCA's [Events page](#) features the most up-to-date information on registration, intended audiences, and who to contact with questions. We encourage you to take a look and bookmark it. Contact [events@orpca.org](mailto:events@orpca.org) with questions.

## Sign up for OPCA's Member Update



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