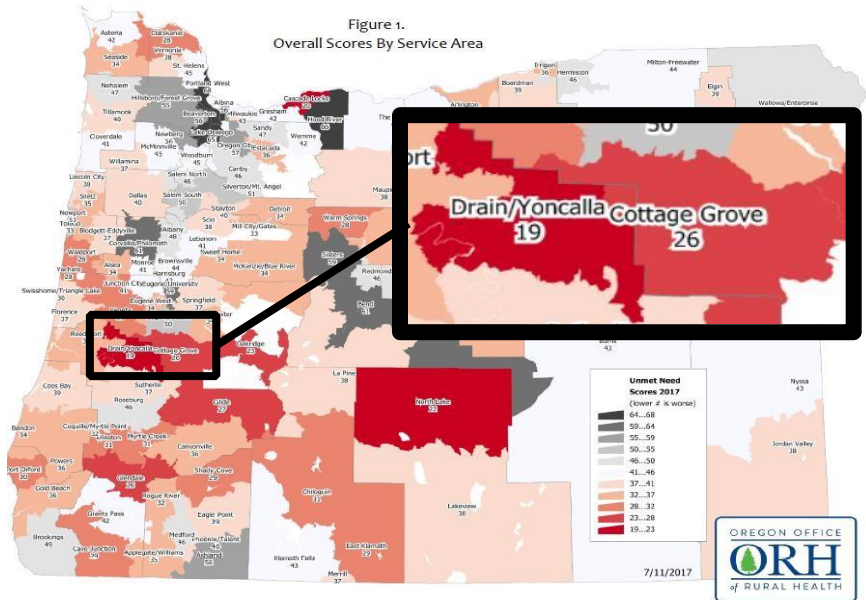


# South Lane Community Health Center Career and Technical Education Project

**Mission.** The mission of the Community Health Centers of Lane County (CHCLC) is to improve the health and wellness of our community through affordable, holistic healthcare.

Figure 1.  
Overall Scores By Service Area



## Why Open a Clinic in South Lane County?

- South Lane is designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area for primary and dental care.
- Two of the top 6 primary care service areas with the highest level of unmet need in Oregon are located in South Lane and North Douglas Counties – Cottage Grove and Drain/Yoncalla areas (see map; Oregon Office of Rural Health, 2017).
- The community’s urgent need far surpasses local provider capacity in every area, especially oral healthcare, including intensive pediatric dental procedures, and services for individuals with Medicare and Medicaid / Oregon Health Plan.
- PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center has the highest rate of emergency department use per 1,000 patients for oral health-related issues in Lane County and the second highest rate in the state.

- Overbooking of local providers results in over 4,000 local patients traveling to CHCLC sites in Eugene and Springfield.
- As a result of large service gaps in South Lane, the Lane County Public Health clinic, Cottage Grove High School's health center, and Planned Parenthood-Cottage Grove Outreach Health Center were all closed.

**Population Served.** CHCLC is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), serving all people regardless of race, gender, age, preferred language, sexual orientation, housing, citizenship, insurance status, or ability to pay.

- About 1 in 4 Cottage Grove residents and almost 1 in 2 local families with children under age 5 live below the federal poverty level (FPL).
- Among FQHC patients, 3 in 4 had family incomes below FPL, 2 in 5 were children under age 18, and 7% were age 65 or older.

**Programs and Services.** CHCLC believes healthy people are the foundation of healthy communities. CHCLC focuses on integrated care that values the whole person and serves the whole family.



CHCLC provides comprehensive services, which cover treatment and prevention of illness. CHCLC integrates medical, behavioral, reproductive, alternative, and oral healthcare within its primary care clinics. Patient-centered primary care teams also address other factors affecting health, such as transportation, housing, medication assistance, and care coordination.

**Track Record of Establishing New Clinics to Meet Community Needs.**

CHCLC is part of the Health & Human Services division of Lane County. It was established in 2004 to address the lack of access to primary care services by our community's most vulnerable residents. It has continued to meet growing community needs and now operates 6 primary care clinics, serving residents throughout Lane County. CHCLC provided nearly 133,000 patient care visits to 31,486 patients in 2019. More than 1 in 5 Lane County residents with Medicaid coverage currently receives their primary care from CHCLC.

**Location.** The new clinic will be located inside Lane Community College (LCC) at 1275 South River Road in Cottage Grove, next to Cottage Grove High School and down the street from Bohemia Elementary School. This location will provide convenient access for students to access primary care and dental services, as well as function as a health and dental care training site for South Lane School District and LCC students.



**Clinic Space.** The clinic will be approximately 8,440 ft<sup>2</sup> in size and include the areas listed below. There will also be one large classroom space and six single, separate gender-neutral restrooms that the clinic will share with LCC.

- 10 exam rooms (including 1 negative pressure room)
- 1 procedure room
- 2 smaller talking rooms to see patients who do not need an exam
- 1 RN room for nurse visits and triage
- 1 patient meeting / telehealth visit room
- 1 access team room for insurance / Medicaid enrollment assistance
- 1 WIC / Maternal and Child Health room
- 1 healthy food pantry area in the lobby

**Career and Technical Education.** CHCLC, South Lane School District, LCC, and PeaceHealth are partnering to identify the most promising healthcare career pathways and develop the clinic as a real-world learning and training site for local high school and college students interested in healthcare careers.

**Who is Involved?** The partners invested in the core team who are collaboratively working to plan and implement this project include: CHCLC, Cottage Grove Be Your Best Committee, LCC, PeaceHealth, South Lane Mental Health, and South Lane School District.

Efforts are also being made to engage the community in the planning process to help ensure the new clinic meet the needs of the local community.



**Cost.** The estimated cost for building renovations, equipment, and start-up is approximately \$5.0 million. This includes renovation costs for dental expansion to meet new dental infection control guidelines. This does not include costs of any outdoor site changes to address transportation or access issues. This is an estimate, and the actual contractor bid could be above or below this estimate. Partners are pursuing grant and other funding to help raise a portion of the funds needed to open the clinic.

**Timeline.** The clinic is estimated to open Fall 2022 depending on timelines to secure funding for initial capital renovation and opening costs, and on subsequent construction timelines.

**Sustainability.** CHCLC has demonstrated financial sustainability over its 16 year history. As an FQHC, it receives funding from the U.S. Health Resources and Service Administration to support care to special populations, including uninsured, underinsured, homeless, and migrant populations. The majority of its revenue is for services to Medicaid, Medicare, or commercially insured patients. CHCLC does not receive or rely on Lane County general fund tax dollars. The new clinic will have the capacity to be the primary care medical home of 5,000 patients.

