



The Honorable Gregory V. Smith
Oregon House of Representatives
District 57

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 14, 2025

WHEELER COUNTY RECEIVES ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO LAUNCH INNOVATIVE RURAL HEALTH PROGRAM

FOSSIL, OR. – Wheeler County has received a major investment in rural healthcare. HRSA’s Federal Office of Rural Health Policy has awarded the county \$1 million to create the Rural Oregon Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Program Consortium. This is a first-of-its-kind effort to strengthen healthcare access and emergency services in the region.

In January, **Representative Gregory Smith (R-Heppner)** vocalized his support by stating:

“I wholeheartedly support ORH’s grant application. I believe their work will significantly improve patient care, enhance the financial and operational sustainability of healthcare providers and EMS agencies, and lead to better health outcomes for rural Oregonians.”

[Read Rep. Smith’s letter here.](#)

The four-year grant will provide \$250,000 annually to Oregon Rural Health and the Oregon Mobile Integrated Health Care Coalition to develop resources, provide training, and assist Asher Community Health Center and Wheeler County’s three volunteer EMS agencies in launching a pilot program.

By expanding mobile healthcare services, this initiative will enhance patient access to care, reduce healthcare costs in rural communities, and increase the effectiveness of local EMS teams in responding to emergencies.

This funding is a significant step forward for rural healthcare in Oregon. It ensures our communities have the resources and support they need to thrive.

Smith is the Republican budget leader who represents the entirety of Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman, and Wheeler counties, as well as portions of Clackamas, Jefferson, Marion, Wasco, and Umatilla Counties.

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

Representative Greg Smith
(541)993-5236
rep.gregsmith@oregonlegislature.gov
