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OCF \$100,000 grant will help build Port Orford health and wellness center

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Future site of Coast Community Health Center in Port Orford

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Amy Moss Strong, Bandon Western World

PORT ORFORD - While Coast Community Health Center has been busy serving patients in Bandon, the organization has also been on track with its expansion of services in Curry County.

To that end, The Oregon Community Foundation awarded a special grant award of \$100,000 last spring to Coast Community Health Center to assist with construction of a new community health center and wellness center in Port Orford. The project, to be completed with federal grants and local support, provides north Curry County residents with local, reliable access to physical and mental health professionals and low-cost pharmacy services.

The unusually large OCF grant is the first of its size for Curry County residents. The grant was originally announced in February.

Coast Community Health Center has purchased three parcels on Tichenor Avenue directly north of Driftwood Elementary School where it will be easily accessible and within walking distance for residents, as well as close to other amenities. CCHC has had the land cleared in preparation for construction of the new health and wellness center, which should begin in 2018. For a sneak peek at the plans for the new clinical and wellness space, visit the Bandon CCHC lobby and view the architectural drawing.

Meanwhile, the Port Orford outreach office moved to its location at 1312 Tichenor Ave., right next to the new property. The double-wide home-turned-office houses outreach staff, as well as a guest office space for a Southwestern Oregon Community College adviser, the Curry County Veterans representative, and Oregon Coast Community Action's program officer and Curry Services Coordinator.

The close to 7,000-square-foot North Curry Health and Wellness Center will have five primary care exam rooms and a procedure room to support up to two medical professionals; a nurse exam room to support vaccine services for all ages; Mental and Behavioral Health and family counseling rooms located in a cluster; outreach and enrollment services; a 340B pharmacy that provides medications at lower costs than commercial pharmacies; two full-service dental exam rooms; a wellness room for exercise classes for all ages, community meetings and classes; a commercial kitchen for community nutrition and wellness classes; dorm rooms to support visiting specialists and medical student rotations; and 13 parking spaces, including ambulance access and ADA accessible parking.

“Community success requires healthy individuals” said former OCF South Coast Regional Director Anne Donnelly when the award was announced in February. “OCF and its donor-created funds generate grants for all kinds of community benefits and causes. Ultimately, though, community success requires healthy children, parents, employees, veterans and retirees.”

Donnelly points to OCF's pioneering work creating the “Ready To Smile” program. Because dental health problems in childhood can greatly limit educational achievement and adult success, OCF's local South Coast Leadership Council partnered with local dentists and hygienists to provide school-based preventative dentistry education and exams. The program was so successful that OCF provided funding for similar services in other communities.

Donnelly added that the new Port Orford project offered attributes OCF seeks in all grant proposals: A realistic and cost-effective solution to a locally-identified need, inclusive planning and collaboration, competent leadership, and likelihood of continuing, long-term benefit after grant funds have been expended.

The mission of The Oregon Community Foundation is to improve life for all Oregonians through the power of philanthropy. Individuals, families, businesses and organizations create charitable funds through OCF, designed to advance community causes of interest to the fund creator. A fund may be established and added to at any time, including through a will or trust, and can be designed to support a particular nonprofit organization or activity, to benefit residents of a particular city, county or geographic area, or dedicated to statewide issues. Through this coordinated service, more than \$105 million in grants and scholarships was awarded by OCF in 2016. For more information about OCF, visit: <http://www.oregoncf.org>.