Advancing Health Equity through Oregon's Health IT Strategic Plan and Priorities

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Oregon
Health
Authority

Learning Objectives

- Describe the role of HITOC and Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) health IT work in supporting statewide health IT priorities and health equity
- Identify how those priorities outlined in the Oregon Strategic Plan for Health Information Technology 2024-2028 align with the work that you do
- Learn about Oregon's 1115 Medicaid waiver and new tools like Community Information Exchange that support addressing social needs
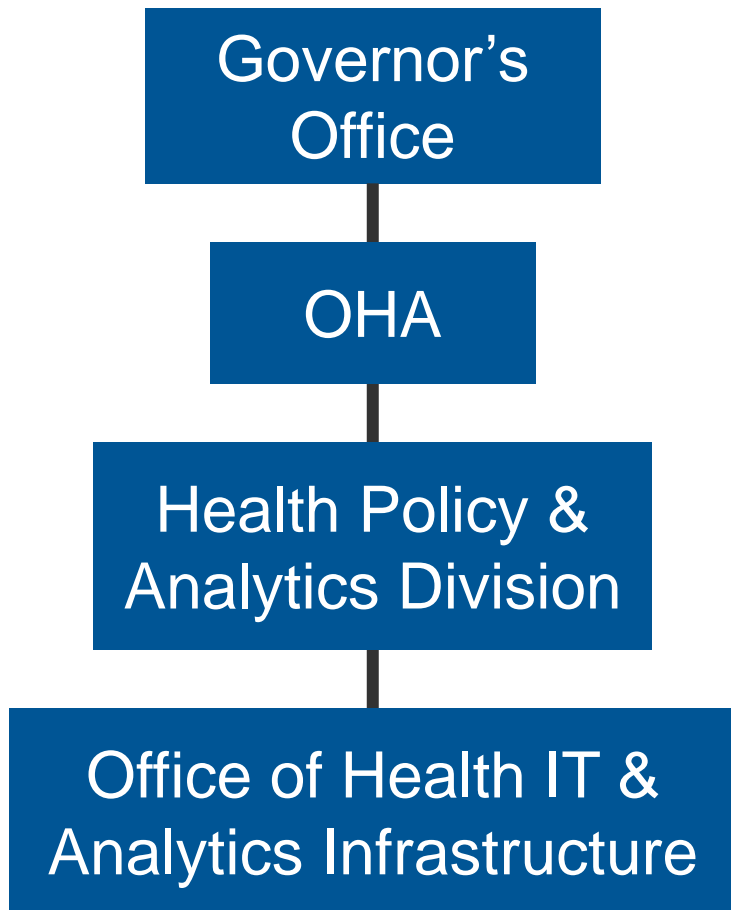
State-level Policy Priorities

Health equity is the main priority for Oregon state health policy, and Oregon has set a goal to eliminate health inequities by 2030.

We at OHA are working to advance health equity through:

- 2022-2027 Medicaid 1115 Waiver and health-related social needs
- Addressing social determinants of health (SDOH)
- Improving behavioral health treatment and supports
- Better demographic data (REALD & SOGI)
- Reducing health care costs, improving quality and increasing access to care and health insurance/Medicaid coverage
- Improving health care workforce
- Value-based payment

Office of Health IT & Analytics Infrastructure
Policy, Programs, and Partnerships

Governor's Office

OHA

Health Policy & Analytics Division

Office of Health IT & Analytics Infrastructure

We focus on health IT to support health system transformation efforts and Oregon's goal to eliminate health inequities by 2030.

Health IT Oversight Council (HITOC)

The Oregon Legislature created HITOC in 2009 to ensure health system transformation efforts are supported by Health IT. HITOC is a committee of the Oregon Health Policy Board.
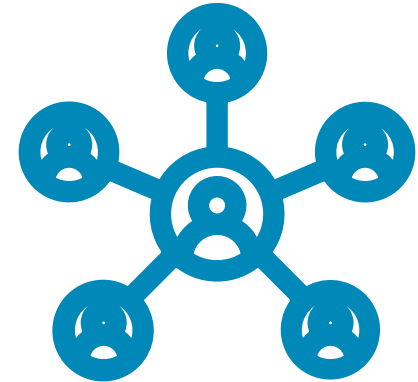
Advise health IT strategy and policy	Monitor health IT landscape	Develop state health IT strategic plan

What is health information technology (IT)?

Health IT is technology that individuals, health care providers, and health systems use to collect, store, access, organize, and share health information.

Examples of health information technology (IT)

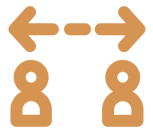**Electronic health records (EHRs)**:

- Most Oregon physical health providers have certified EHRs

- Numbers are lower for behavioral and oral health providers, smaller clinics and individual providers, and providers in rural areas

Patient portals:

- Over 2/3 of patients use their physical health portals

- Less common in behavioral and oral health

Source: 2022 Health IT Report to Oregon's Health IT Oversight Council (HITOC)

Examples of health information technology (IT)

Health information exchange (HIE): Exchanging health information electronically between separate systems like EHRs. It also refers to organizations that facilitate the electronic sharing of health information between systems.

- Providers treating the same person have the information they need and can work together
- Gaps exist in HIE that create burdens for patients, providers and others

Community information exchange (CIE): A network of collaborative partners using technology to exchange information to connect people to services and supports they need.

- Partner organizations use a technology platform to share social needs information among health care providers and social services
- It's grown rapidly and organizations need support to use this technology and build relationships

Source: 2022 Health IT Report to Oregon's Health IT Oversight Council (HITOC)

Health IT supports health equity

Helps providers collect and manage health information electronically.

Makes it easier for providers and patients to access and exchange data.

Leads to faster, more informed care; more agency; and more access to care resources. Data is used in policy and analysis to address health inequities.

Improves health outcomes

Oregon Strategic Plan for Health IT 2024-2028
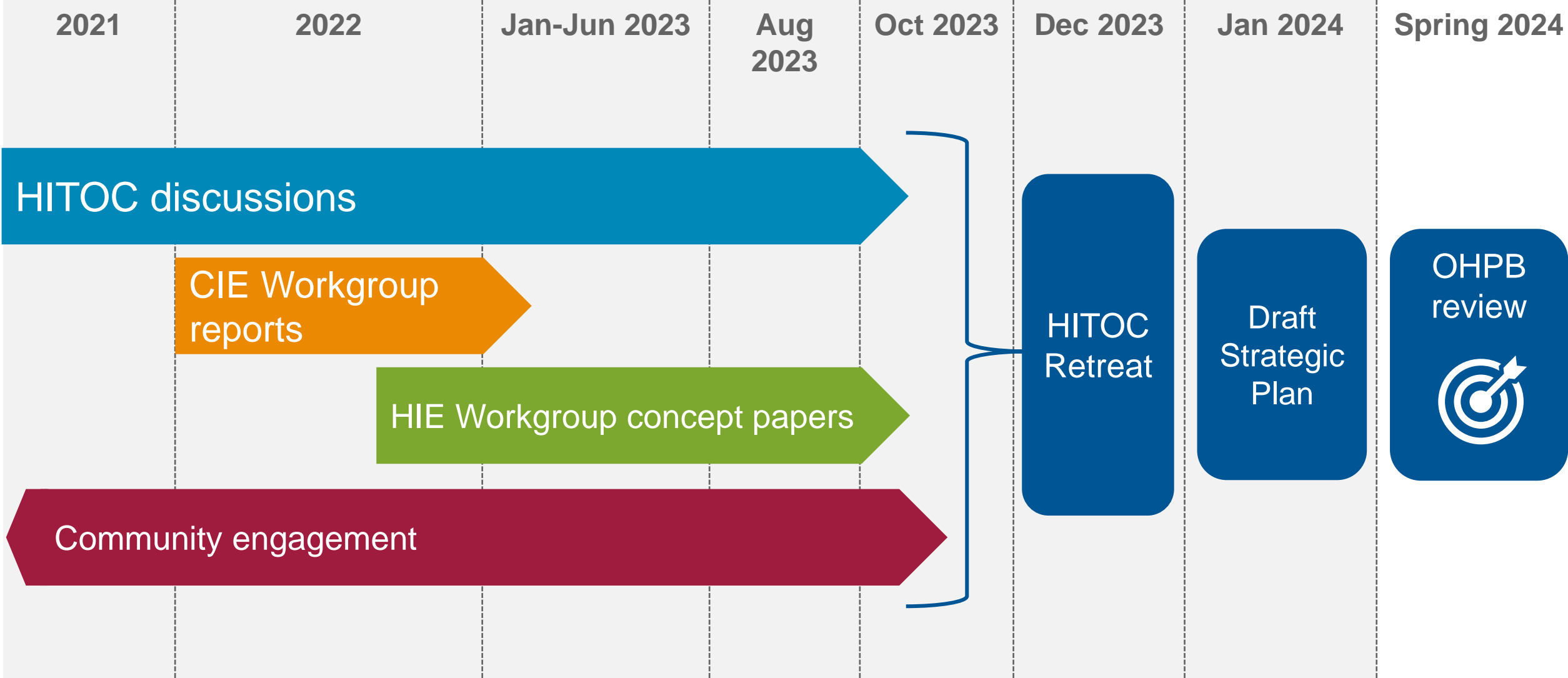
Oregon Strategic Plan for Health IT 2024-2028

Health equity

Provides high level health IT direction and strategies for partners across Oregon for the next five years.

The strategic plan is for everyone using or impacted by health IT, including:

- Individuals (consumers/patients)
- Providers and clinic staff
- The Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon
- Community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Hospitals
- Health systems
- Coordinated care organizations (CCOs) and health insurance plans
- Technology partners
- State agencies

Strategic Planning Process

2021	2022	Jan-Jun 2023	Aug 2023	Oct 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Spring 2024

HITOC discussions

CIE Workgroup reports

HIE Workgroup concept papers

Community engagement

HITOC Retreat

Draft Strategic Plan

OHPB review

VISION
Health IT empowers individuals and communities to reach their full health potential and well-being.

PRINCIPLES

- Health Equity
- Privacy & Security
- Transparency, people understand how their data is used
- Leverage existing resources, national standards
- Efficiency, avoid burden
- Sustainability, thoughtful progress

GOALS

A — People can be actively involved in their care through access to health IT

B — Individuals' information is electronically available and exchanged securely and seamlessly

C — Health IT supports efficient data collection, sharing, and use

D — Health IT supports health equity and social determinants of health

STRATEGIES

1. Strengthen engagement, access, and rights of patients and consumers
2. Close remaining EHR gaps
3. Spread HIE across the state
4. Support, accelerate, and improve statewide CIE efforts
5. Improve interoperability and encourage broad sharing of valuable data
6. Evolve governance of health IT efforts

Vision

Health IT empowers individuals and communities to reach their full health potential and well-being.

Goals

A. People can be actively involved in their care through access to health IT.

B. Individuals' information is electronically available, exchanged securely and seamlessly.

C. Health IT supports efficient and accurate data collection, sharing, and use.

D. Health IT design, implementation, and use must center health equity

Principles

1. Health IT must advance **health equity** and avoid reinforcing or worsening inequities.

2. **Privacy and security** of people's health information is expected.

3. Ensure **individuals and communities understand how their data is stored, shared, and used** to provide transparency and grow trust.

4. Leverage **existing resources and align** with national standards.

5. Improve **efficiency** and avoid adding burden.

6. Ensure efforts are **sustainable** with thoughtful intentional progress.

Strategies and Activity Highlights

1	Strengthen engagement, access, and rights of patients and consumers	Increase patient and consumer agency over their health information and strengthen accessibility of health IT
2	Close remaining EHR gaps	Prioritize resources for groups with lower EHR adoption rates and advocate for regulatory alignment
3	Spread HIE across the state	Encourage more participation in HIE networks, provide funding and support for adoption, and make more data available

Strategies and Activity Highlights

4	Support, accelerate, and improve statewide CIE efforts	Provide support for CBOs and partners to participate; OHA and ODHS should support and participate
5	Improve interoperability and encourage broad sharing of valuable data	Facilitate interoperability, identify useful data and prioritize it for sharing
6	Evolve governance of health IT efforts	Clarify and define governance and develop governance principles

Community Information Exchange (CIE) Supports Social Needs in Oregon's 1115 Medicaid Waiver

Oregon 1115 Waiver Goals

GOALS

- Address and advance health equity

- Create a more equitable, culturally- and linguistically-responsive health care system

- Ensure people can maintain their health coverage

- Improve health outcomes by addressing health-related social needs

- Ensure smart, flexible spending for health-related social needs and health equity

Healthier Oregon OHP members are included in 1115 waiver benefits!

Oregon 1115 Waiver Changes

CHANGES

- Extended Oregon Health Plan (OHP) eligibility for young children, youth, and adults

- Continuous OHP eligibility and enrollment for children up to age six*†

- Two years of continuous enrollment for OHP members ages six and older*†

- **Health-related social needs (HRSNs) supports including housing, nutrition and climate supports***

- Coverage for young adults with special health care needs up to age 26*

* Indicates an approved change that is first-in-the-nation   † Note: These benefits are in effect and began in July 2023

What are Health-Related Social Needs?

Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN): The **social and economic needs that impact an individual's ability** to maintain their health and well-being. For example, affordable housing and utilities, accessible and reliable transportation, and access to healthy, affordable foods.

HRSN services to be provided through this Waiver:
- Housing support
- Nutrition support
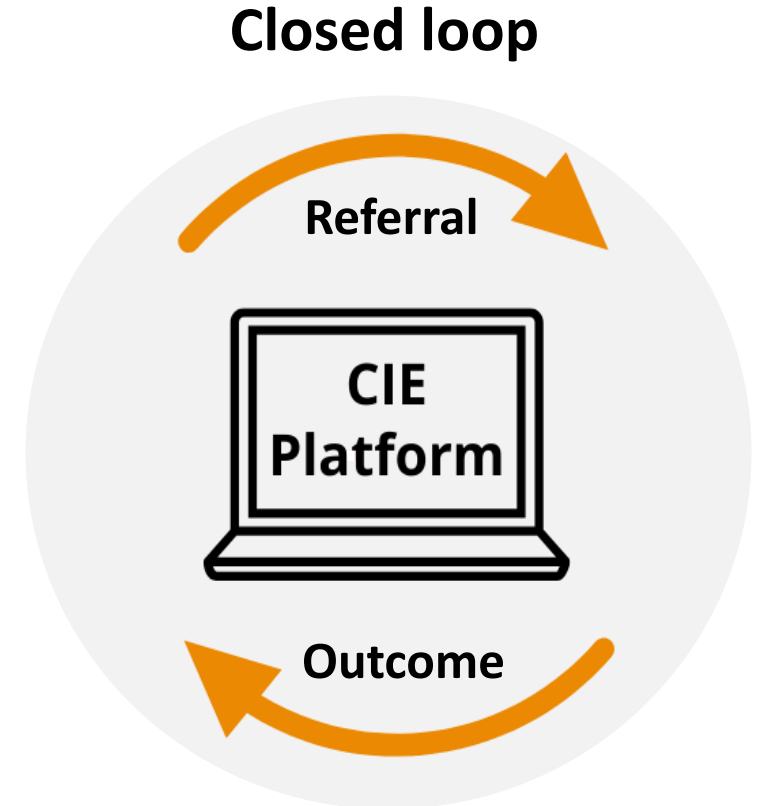- Climate-related needs
- Outreach & engagement

Closed loop referrals to HRSN services are required
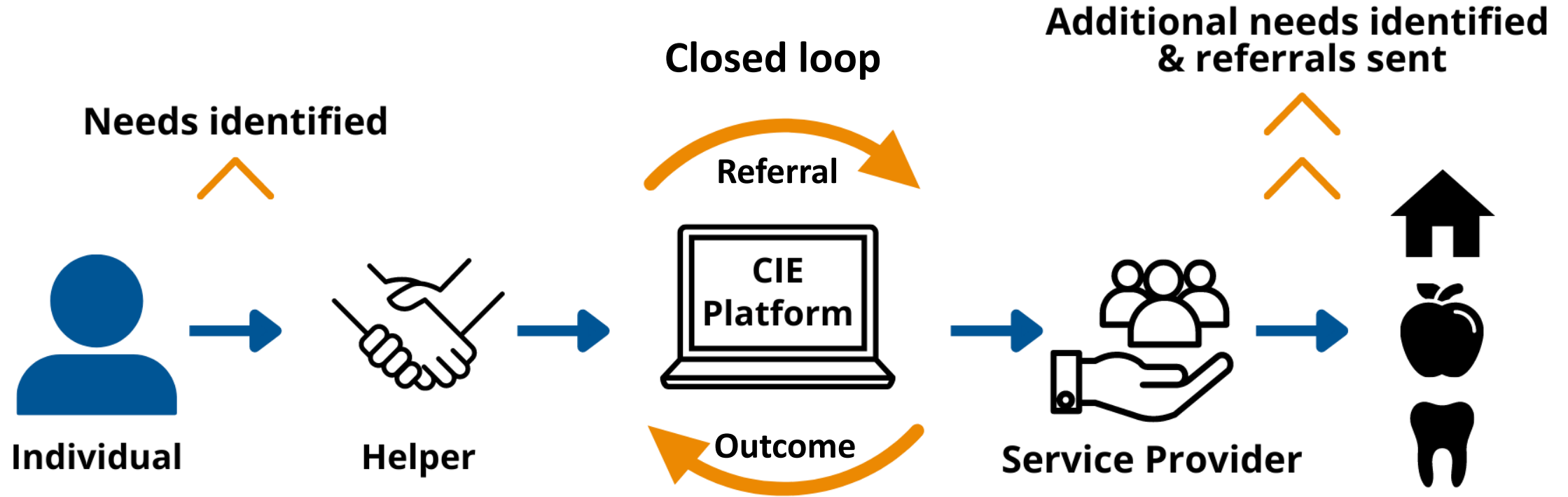
CIE can help with Closed Loop Referrals

Collaborative partners use CIE technology to exchange information to connect people to the services and supports they need.

Functions must include:
- Closed Loop Referrals
- Shared resource directory
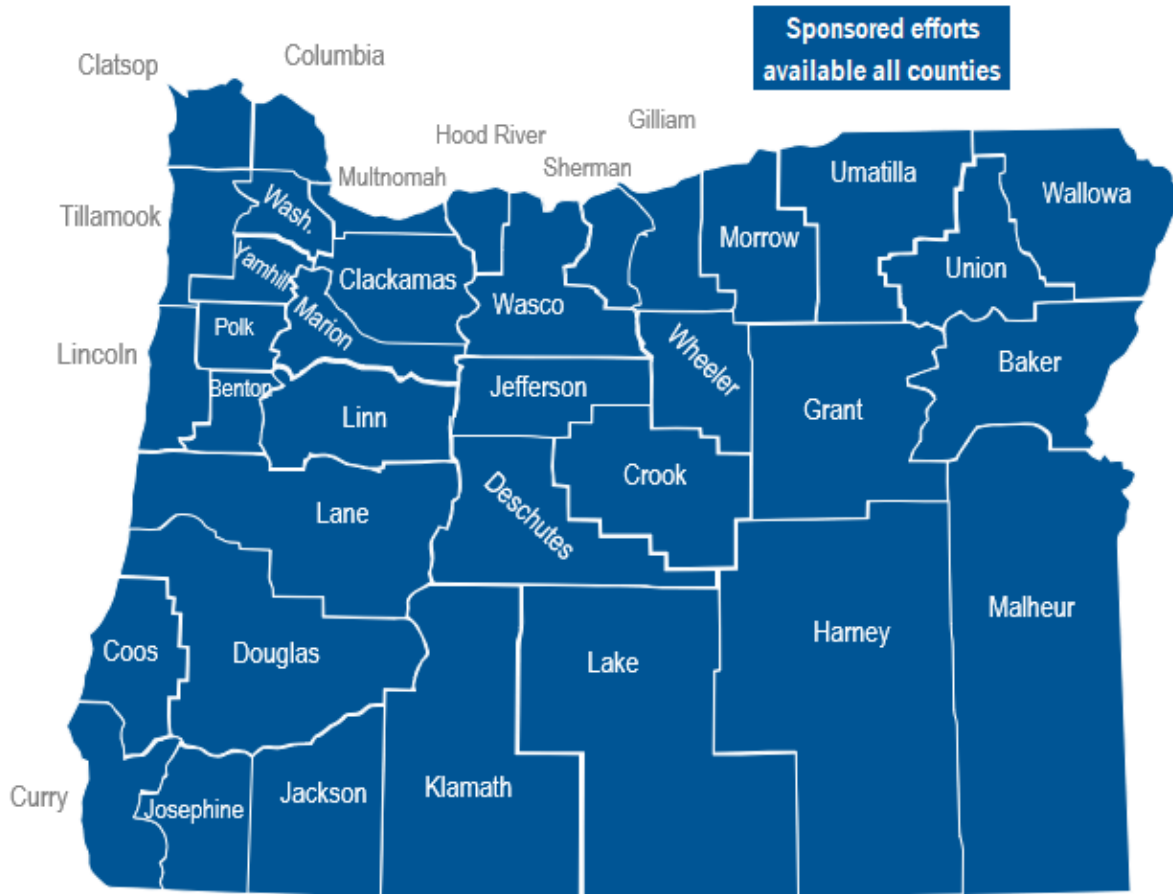- Consent to the use of technology by the Member

Closed loop

Referral

CIE Platform

Outcome

CIE can support referrals for social needs

Needs identified

Closed loop

Additional needs identified & referrals sent

Referral

CIE Platform

Outcome

Individual

Helper

Service Provider

Oregon CIE Vendors: Sponsored Efforts

Connect Oregon (powered by Unite Us)

Sponsored efforts available all counties

findhelp (formerly Aunt Bertha)

Sponsored efforts / Tools available

Status as of March 2024. These maps do not reflect level of CIE adoption by organizations. At this time, OHA is not a participant in CIE.

Community organization needs related to CIE

- Funding and staff capacity

- Equity in decision making, accessibility and accountability

- Privacy and security, training

- Technical assistance (TA) and training

- Coordinating entity for alignment

- Relationships and communication

If you want it [to] be a successful system, we need increased capacity, like staff costs and all the other things associated with that, including infrastructure money.
– CBO Interviewee

Supports for HRSN Service Providers

CCOs & OHA to provide support & incentives

- Procurements covering some partner use
- Grants: Community Capacity Building Funds (CCBF)
  - **Includes several areas related to CIE**
- Technical assistance
- Outreach
- Education
- Feedback mechanisms

CCBF link: https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Medicaid-Policy/Pages/CCBF.aspx

Discussion

Thank You

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