**Project Title:** Creating age-friendly communities in Oregon through the Oregon Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program
**Applicant Organization:** Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)

**Applicant Address:** 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road, L475, Portland, OR 97239-3098

**Project Director’s Name:** Laura K. Byerly, MD

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**Funds Requested:** HRSA-24-018, $4,999,998 over 5-year award period
**Project Period:** July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2029

**Project Description and Needs Addressed**: Oregon is experiencing a shortage of healthcare professionals trained in providing age- and dementia-friendly care, particularly in rural and frontier regions. Oregon’s Tribal communities lack older adult care training, yet their Tribal elders and elder caregivers see high rates of geriatric syndromes and social determinant effects on aging. Oregon GWEP will meet the age-friendly and dementia-friendly care needs of Oregon’s Tribal, Tribal organization, underserved, and rural (TTOUR) healthcare teams and communities through targeted education, training, and resources to create age-friendly health systems (AFHS). Oregon GWEP’s goals are 1) create reciprocal partnerships between academic institutions, community and state organizations, and TTOUR primary care delivery sites to offer training support that improves Oregon’s workforce capacity to provide age-friendly care including the development of AFHS designated primary care delivery sites; 2) develop and implement interprofessional age- and dementia-friendly education and training for Oregon’s health professions trainees and preceptors; and 3) develop and implement statewide training for supportive caregivers, direct care workers (particularly Community Health Workers), and primary care teams that highlights age-friendly and public health education that can improve the quality of life of TTOUR older adults. Oregon GWEP will work closely with OHSU’s institutional (Office of Rural Health, Oregon Rural Practice & Research Network, Oregon ECHO Network, Oregon Area Health Education Centers, School of Nursing), educational (Pacific University, Providence Health, University of California-San Francisco, and Samaritan Health), state (Oregon Health Authority, Portland State University Center for Excellence on Behavioral Health & Aging), community (AARP Oregon, Oregon Care Partners, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, Columbia Gorge Health Council), primary care (consolidated La Grande clinics, Samaritan Health, Tribal clinics), and nursing home (Pioneer Place, Oregon Veterans’ Home) partners. Through live, virtual, asynchronous, and module educational platforms, Oregon GWEP will create training opportunities that reach Oregon’s diverse communities, providers, and healthcare teams. With evaluation and training outcomes data, Oregon GWEP will disseminate its work and share resources across the state.

**Population Served**: Oregon GWEP will serve the healthcare workforce, patients, families, and caregivers of the entire state of Oregon. Its focus will be rural, frontier, and Tribal communities.

**Project Trainees**: Oregon GWEP will train 1) undergraduate health professions trainees, 2) graduate health professions trainees, 3) practicing providers, 4) interprofessional primary care delivery teams, 5) nursing facility staff including certified nursing assistants, 6) community health workers, 7) families and patients, and 8) formal and informal caregivers.

**Funding Priority Request:** Priority 1 due to substantial state and private non-profit community partnerships with activities towards family, caregiver, and patient education about caregiving strategies and caregiver support. Priority 2 due to substantial TTOUR partnerships promoting the education, training, and access support for TTOUR areas to care for older adults.