



# Case Study



## Hearing from everyone on health

Columbia Gorge Region,  
OR & WA

# The Challenge

Despite rich tourism and agriculture industries, the Columbia Gorge region is vast, with residents dispersed across remote towns. They face poverty; health services are hard to access, and 34 percent of residents worry about running out of food.

# The Intervention

With a renewed focus on inclusion, health care providers and community partners are collaborating to assess medical needs and allocate resources according to priorities like food, housing, transportation, jobs, and dental and mental health services.

## Action Area(s) Targeted



Shared Values

Collaboration

Communities

Health Care

## Outcome Area(s) Impacted

Enhanced individual and community well-being

Managed chronic disease and toxic stress

Reduced health care costs

## Key Activities

- Established Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) and engaged residents from underserved groups in decision-making
- Adopted a customer-centric point of view toward addressing community health, e.g., bilingual health surveys and monthly community meetings
- Addressed food insecurity through “Veggie Rx,” a prescription program that helps residents buy fresh produce
- Raised funds to certify 52 community health workers to connect underserved residents to needed services
- Created a comprehensive school-based dental program for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders

## Collaborators + Community Resources

- The Next Door, Columbia Gorge Housing Authority, and the Oregon Health Authority
- Gorge Grown Food Network, the United Way, and local farmers’ markets and grocery stores
- Columbia Gorge Health Council, community members, and local organizations
- Four school districts, a clinic, health officials and private dentists