



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oregon Primary Care Association Announces New Partnership with Upstream to Advance Contraceptive Care Access Across Oregon

Portland, OR – The Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA) announces a new partnership with Upstream USA, a national nonprofit organization focused on expanding access to patient-centered contraceptive care.

Through this partnership, OPCA and Upstream will collaborate to strengthen the capacity of Oregon’s community health centers to deliver patient-centered contraceptive care and improve access to the full range of evidence-based family planning services for patients across the state, especially those facing the steepest barriers to care.

“Access to patient-centered care in primary care settings is essential, especially for those facing the steepest barriers to health,” said **Dr. Aletha Akers, Upstream’s Head of Clinical Strategy, Design, and Training.** *“Integrating contraceptive care into people’s medical home allows us to meet patients where they are. This partnership ensures that the right care is available at the right time, honoring each person’s ability to plan their future and care for their family.”*

Currently, over 255,000 women in Oregon live in a “contraceptive care desert”, meaning they lack reasonable access to health centers that provide the full range of birth control options. Upstream partners with health care organizations nationwide to integrate patient-centered contraceptive care into the primary care settings. By strengthening clinical systems and removing barriers to access, more patients are empowered to make the best decisions for themselves and their families.

“Community health centers are at the forefront of delivering comprehensive, whole-person care,” said **Brooke Linn, Vice President of Programs for OPCA.**

“This partnership with Upstream is an important opportunity to integrate reproductive health into primary care further, ensuring patients across Oregon—especially those covered by Medicaid—have timely access to the care they need.”

The collaboration will support Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) through:

- Clinical training and education to expand contraceptive care capabilities
- Workflow and systems re-design to support same-day access to services
- Quality improvement strategies aligned with patient-centered care models

By aligning the national expertise of Upstream with OPCA’s connection to Oregon’s network of health centers, the partnership will strengthen sustainable models of care that better meet the needs of both patients and providers.

Community Health Centers serve as critical access points for reproductive health care, particularly for low-income individuals, rural communities, and historically underserved populations. This partnership reinforces a shared commitment to advancing health access, reducing disparities in reproductive health outcomes, improving patient health outcomes, and supporting the long-term sustainability of Oregon’s safety net system.

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About OPCA

Oregon Primary Care Association is a non-profit membership association of Oregon’s 31 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), including two FQHC Look-Alikes. The organization’s mission is to lead the transformation of primary care to achieve health access for all. www.orpca.org

About Upstream

Since its inception in 2014, Upstream has emerged as the nation’s largest contraceptive access organization. By providing specialized training and technical assistance to over 230 healthcare organizations across 37 states, we currently impact more than 1 million patients of reproductive age annually. Upstream is scaling our nationwide footprint to reach 5 million patients every year, with a priority focus on those who face the steepest barriers to care. www.upstream.org

About Oregon’s Federally Qualified Health Centers

Oregon’s Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) deliver integrated medical, dental, and behavioral health services to many of the state’s most vulnerable communities through over 270 locations statewide. Over 450,000 Oregonians receive their care at a community health center, including one in six people covered by the state Medicaid Program, Oregon Health Plan.

www.orpca.org/find-a-community-health-center