



1195 City View Street, Eugene, OR 97402
541-342-5088 | hivalliance.org

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For release: October 10, 2022

Media Contact:

Brooks McLain, HIV Alliance Development Director

bmclain@allianceor.org

Cell: 541-510-1038

HIV Alliance testing program receives Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund grant

HIV Alliance received a \$3,750 grant from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund to support its testing program in Marion County. The agency currently provides free and confidential rapid testing for HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis across six Oregon counties. Siletz's award will allow HIV Alliance to provide incentive cards to Marion County individuals who learn their infection status in an effort to improve client engagement with the service and ultimately increase the number of new cases identified and connected to treatment.

HIV Alliance was founded in 1994 with the mission to support people living with HIV and prevent new HIV infections. The agency now provides roughly 1,000 HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis tests annually across its service region. Through its integrated service model, HIV Alliance can provide immediate linkage to HIV care coordination and/or local treatment options for those newly diagnosed as well as a range of other services such as safer sex supplies and education.

The program prioritizes communities that are disproportionately impacted by and considered at increased risk for transmission, such as BIPOC, Spanish-speaking communities, LGBTQIA+ communities, people who use drugs, unhoused people and people living on low incomes, and people living in rural areas of Oregon. According to HIV Alliance, adding incentives to engage with testing has proven to be highly successful in improving uptake of their testing service, especially among these at-risk groups.

Founded in 1999, the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund is the grantmaking arm of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon. Since its inception, the Fund has awarded over \$16 million in grants. HIV Alliance expresses their gratitude for the generosity of the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund in their compassion for some of Marion County's most vulnerable people. HIV Alliance says they are honored to partner with the Fund in working toward their goals of reducing health disparities and ending HIV in Oregon.

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