

HIV Alliance Awarded Community Benefit Initiative Grant from Trillium CHP

The \$472,995 grant will allow for the expansion of the current Queer Resource Center at 1185 Arthur Street in Eugene

Eugene, OR, Jun 4, 2024 – HIV Alliance is pleased to announce a 2023 Community Benefit Initiative grant from Trillium Community Health Plan to expand their Queer Resource Center (QRC) into a larger community center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other LGBTQ+ people – a longtime goal for the community. The \$472,995 award will allow for the hiring of a QRC Manager to supervise the project, cover the cost of rent and utilities for the first 18 months of occupancy at the new site, and makes allowances for the startup costs at the new Center. The project will expand on the partnership with TransPonder at the current QRC and include partnerships with additional community partners.

“HIV Alliance is honored to be one of the recipients of the 2023 Trillium Community Benefit Initiative grant,” says Renee Yandel, Executive Director at HIV Alliance. “We are thrilled to see this longtime effort finally coming to fruition. The funding will support a vital resource for the health of the community and underscores HIV Alliance’s and Trillium’s ongoing commitment to meeting the evolving healthcare needs of the LGBTQ+ community and fostering inclusivity, support, and empowerment for all LGBTQ+ individuals.

Laura Henry has been selected as the Queer Resource Center Manager. A resident of the Eugene/Springfield area for over a decade, Henry has been an integral part of HIV Alliance since 2018, serving in various administrative roles. With a background in management, customer service and firsthand experience as a queer individual, she brings a deep commitment to the future success of the Queer Resource Center (QRC) project.

“I am excited to begin in this new role and work on the expansion of the current QRC,” said Henry. “With this grant from Trillium Community Health Plan, we will be able to expand our work in serving Lane County’s LGBTQ+ community and bridging the gap of healthcare through expansion of our services. We are excited to build upon our existing relationships with TransPonder, Eugene Pride, Queer Eugene, and other local LGBTQ+ nonprofits to better serve the community.”

Situated at 1185 Arthur Street in Eugene, Oregon, the QRC operates as a shared space with community partners TransPonder and HIV Alliance. The QRC currently offers a range of essential services, including: gender-affirming hormone injection supply program, rapid HIV, HEP C, and Syphilis Testing, Narcan supply and training, distribution of safer sex supplies, PrEP navigation services, access to gender-affirming products, a food pantry, resource navigation, peer support, and substance use counseling.

As part of this initiative, HIV Alliance is actively seeking a larger community space to accommodate 2-5 additional community-based organizations. The Center is expected to provide service to the community beginning in November 2024. This expansion aims to enhance access to existing services while facilitating the introduction of new offerings. The new facility will serve multiple purposes, including providing a central community gathering space for the LGBTQ+ community, incorporating input from a Community Council of LGBTQ+ Individuals to guide the project, engaging LGBTQ+ youth and potentially supporting LGBTQ+ owned businesses, welcoming more community partners, such as Queer Eugene, Eugene Pride, and Eugene Performing Arts Center, to participate in the QRC’s activities.

Trillium awarded funds to local organizations that provide service to communities among their Tri-County and Southwest regions. All grant funding is designed to support projects that drive healthcare quality solutions to improve the social determinants of health through community benefit initiatives.

“Trillium is proud to partner with HIV Alliance to expand their Queer Resource Center and increase access to gender-affirming, whole health services for LGBTQ+ community members,” said Trillium Plan President and CEO

HIVAlliance

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Sarah Kelley Brewer. “Together we’re advancing health equity and creating a welcoming space where Oregonians can connect to care and additional resources, including assistance with food, housing, transportation and other services that support overall health and well-being.”

For more information about HIV Alliance visit www.hivalliance.org. For more information about Trillium, visit www.trilliumohp.com. Renee Yandel, Executive Director, and Brooks McLain, Development Director, are available for interviews.

About HIV Alliance

HIV Alliance was founded in Eugene, Oregon in 1994 to support people living with HIV/AIDS and prevent new HIV infections. We are committed to not only addressing our clients’ needs for HIV-specific care and prevention services, but to reducing all barriers to wellness. Our prevention and care programs work together to support and protect people living with and at-risk for HIV in our community, and we are able to provide comprehensive support to respond to a variety of needs experienced by our clients.

About Trillium Community Health Plan

Trillium Community Health Plan serves Oregon Health Plan members through the CCO model, which began in 2012. Trillium is a recognized leader for outstanding coordination of care. It was first awarded a contract with the state of Oregon to help manage care for the Oregon Health Plan in 1999. Trillium partners with an extensive group of providers to improve care and access to services for OHP members. For more information, please visit our website.

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