



Chad Sweet <chadsweet@cityofgearhart.com>

CMH legislative request - matching funds for FEMA BRIC grant

Dana Gould <councilorgould@cityofgearhart.com>
To: "Kujala, Mark" <mkujala@columbiamemorial.org>
Cc: sweet Chad <chadsweet@cityofgearhart.com>

Wed, Mar 5, 2025 at 6:57 PM

I am sitting down to a CC meeting now and will ask to add this to the agenda for a consensus.-DG

On Mar 5, 2025, at 4:58 PM, Kujala, Mark <mkujala@columbiamemorial.org> wrote:

Councilor Gould and Manager Sweet,

As you know, CMH is seeking matching funds from the State of Oregon to effectively leverage the FEMA BRIC grant funding we were awarded. So far, we have received a favorable response from state legislators and the Governor's office. We are submitting additional materials to state leadership, and we want to include your logo as a supporter of the project.

Attached is an info sheet outlining our request, and a draft letter of support. If you approve, please email back a logo to place on the letter of support. We hope to receive replies by Friday, March 7th, to finalize the document.

Let me know if you have any questions and thank you for your help.

Mark Kujala
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<241004_buildcmh_government_info_sheet.pdf><BuildCMH Legislative Ask - Letter of Support.pdf>

Columbia Memorial Hospital requests \$6 million for resiliency and expanded health care access

Local match for \$20 million FEMA BRIC grant

The BuildCMH Expansion Project

From 2024-2027, Columbia Memorial Hospital will make an investment in health care on its Astoria campus in what will be one of the largest construction projects in Clatsop County history. This capital improvement project will expand hospital service lines, attract new health care providers, and provide the latest technology to address community health needs.

- Meeting community health needs here at home with the caregivers and providers patients trust.
- Building the infrastructure to support patient privacy and preferences, in addition to needed upgrades.
- Increasing resiliency and offering safe refuge in case of a natural disaster like an earthquake or tsunami.

The design for the expansion will follow CMH's commitment to our philosophy of person-centered care. It will reflect the region's architecture and beauty, emphasizing natural light, views and efficiency in the delivery of care.

The planned design includes total new construction of approximately 180,000 square feet, including a critically needed expansion of the CMH Emergency Department. Other expanded areas include additional operating rooms, larger patient rooms, lab draw, radiology services, a new chapel, dedicated caregiver respite areas, and dining facilities.

The size of the facility will help preserve patient dignity and privacy by creating private corridors, private bathrooms for inpatients, and more space in registration areas. There will also be improved parking availability and comfortable waiting areas for visitors.

About us

Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) is one of the largest Critical Access Hospitals in Oregon, serving families living in and visiting the Lower Columbia Region since 1880. It is a full-service, 25-bed, Level IV trauma center with 17 outpatient clinics, caring for a population of over 60,000 people.

CMH is an independent, private, not-for-profit organization and employs more than 900 caregivers. Person-centered care is key to our mission, signaling to the community that providers prioritize comfort, dignity, empowerment and wellbeing, along with top-quality care.

With our team of caregivers, we are deeply committed to improving the health of our region, seeking new ways to innovate and advance our level of care and service. Through a unique academic/rural partnership, CMH and Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) collaborate to provide emergency, women's health, cardiology and other specialty services.

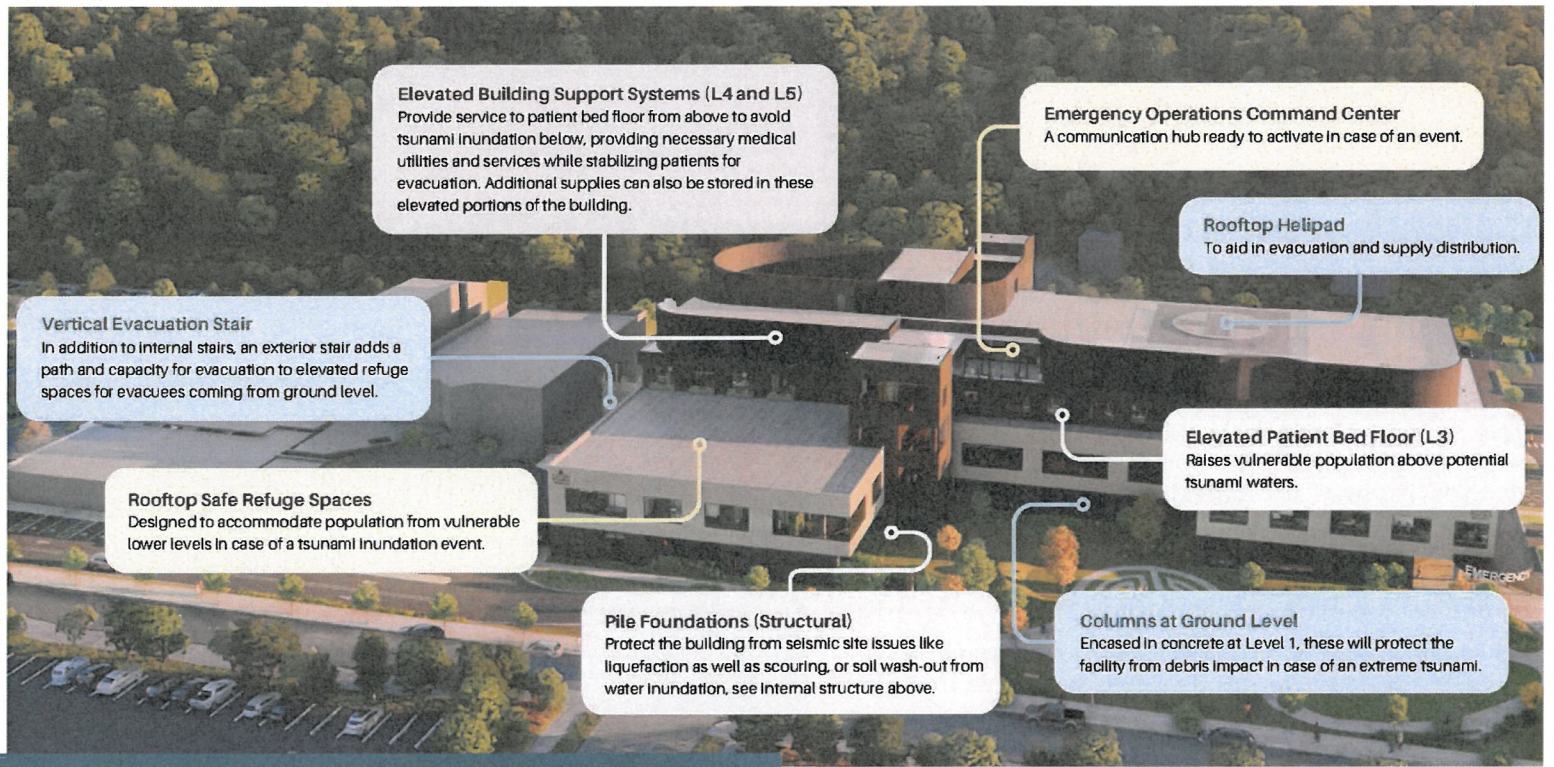
The most significant example of our collaboration is the CMH-OHSU Knight Cancer Collaborative, which opened in Astoria in 2017. The facility offers medical oncology, chemotherapy, radiation oncology and radiation therapy.

Patients save approximately 80,000 driving miles, 1,600 hours of drive time, 3,000 gallons of gasoline and \$44,800 in costs per month by getting their care close to home. In 2023, there were more than 15,500 patient visits. Very few rural communities have a cancer center of this magnitude, and without our unique partnership with OHSU, that level of care would not be possible.

CMH's main campus is located in Astoria, Oregon. We also operate outpatient medical and urgent care clinics in Warrenton and Seaside. CMH continues to grow and remains dedicated to serving and improving the health of our neighbors.



Proposed rendering of Columbia Memorial Hospital expansion.



A safe, resilient community refuge

It's not if a tsunami will hit Astoria — it's when. Tsunamis, earthquakes and other natural disasters wreak havoc on health care infrastructure worldwide. Limited medical resources during these catastrophes only exacerbate the loss of life.

As a Critical Access Hospital, CMH is obligated to be prepared for the citizens of the North Coast. The BuildCMH Expansion Project is a groundbreaking initiative with state-of-the-art design elements specifically built to help the hospital withstand tsunamis and earthquakes.

CMH has engaged regional emergency management leadership and some of the best consultants in the Pacific Northwest, as well as DOGAMI, Oregon Emergency Management, the University of Washington and Clatsop County, in addition to a strong team of experienced geotechnical and civil engineers, to understand

the risks on the CMH campus and the impacts of earthquakes and tsunamis.

This facility will keep all critical infrastructure (generators, water storage, IT components, helipad) on the roof, above any potential flooding. Any service located on the first floor will have the ability to move to the second floor. The new facility will also have a Tsunami Vertical Evacuation Structure (TVES) and safe refuge area for CMH caregivers, patients and community members, with evacuation possible from the roof.

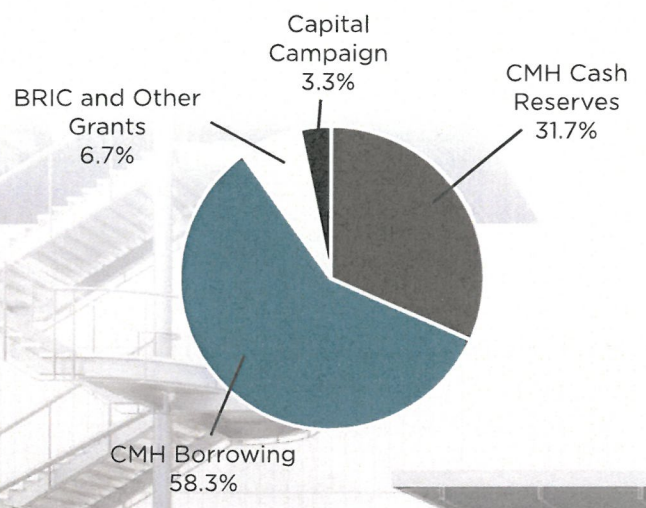
CMH hopes this leading-edge facility, the first to have a TVES in the United States, will be a model for other coastal hospitals.



Help us maximize federal dollars

CMH has been selected for a competitive FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant of \$20 million. To receive the grant, CMH must raise \$6 million in matching funds.

Without this \$6 million (2% of the overall project cost), we won't get any of the \$20 million grant. Your support will get us to 100% funding for the project and ensure uninterrupted care in critical moments. Join us and invest in the infrastructure to protect rural Oregonians.



BuildCMH Expansion Project, Astoria, OR

Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) is a full-service, 25-bed, critical access, not-for-profit, Level IV trauma center located in Astoria, Oregon.

CMH is expanding its current hospital facility to support the growing need for services in the community, as well as prepare for catastrophic natural disasters through resiliency measures.

As a major part of the BuildCMH Expansion Project, CMH will integrate a Tsunami Vertical Evacuation Refuge Structure (TVERS) into the construction. It will allow for 1,900 hospital patients, caretakers, staff, visitors and the public to evacuate from a Cascadia-generated tsunami to safety on the roof at CMH. A communications center; medical gas, electrical and water sources; and a food/water/medicine supply will also be elevated, as well as the helipad for evacuations and supply deliveries. The building is designed to withstand the impact of a 9.0+ Cascadia subduction event.

CMH has been awarded a FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant for \$20 million to help pay for the resiliency features in the hospital expansion. This BRIC grant requires a 30% local match to unlock the federal funding. CMH is asking for the State of Oregon to partner with FEMA and provide this local match requirement of \$6 million so the resiliency measures can be completed in the expansion. The ask represents only 2% of the total project cost, which is otherwise fully funded through prudent fiscal management, local private support and existing federal funds.

(Second side with logos): Please join us in supporting the \$6 million match for Columbia Memorial Hospital's FEMA BRIC grant.