

# GRANTMAKER FOCUS

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IN HEALTH

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## Northwest Health Foundation

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The origins of Northwest Health Foundation (NWHF) date back to 1938, when Physicians Association of Clackamas County (PACC) became the first prepaid health plan in the nation, emerging from a partnership between a large local employer and a group of area physicians. Eventually, this partnership grew into the nonprofit PACC Health Plans and PACC HMO. In 1997, when PACC was sold to a for-profit health insurance corporation, Oregon law required that the net assets continue to be used for community benefit. Endowed with these assets, Northwest Health Foundation emerged with the mission to advance, support, and promote the health of the people of Oregon and southwest Washington, the footprint of PACC's service area. Former United States Senator Mark O. Hatfield became the first Chair of the Northwest Health Foundation Board of Directors. During its first 10 years, Northwest Health Foundation invested more than \$39 million in more than 1,000 projects covering every county in Oregon and five counties in southwest Washington: Clark, Cowlitz, Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum.

**Program Information:** Northwest Health Foundation seeks to advance, support, and promote health in Oregon and southwest Washington. By providing grants to initiatives, forming partnerships with health and community leaders, and advocating for policy change, NWHF is furthering its vision of giving every person the opportunity to lead a healthy life. Grantmaking is guided by three equity priorities: race/ethnicity, including immigrant and refugee status; disability; and geography. The majority of grantmaking dollars go to organizations that are led by the communities they serve.

### ► Financial Information:

Total Assets: \$67.9 million (FY 2014)

Amount Dedicated to Health-Related Grants: \$5.4 million (FY 2014)

### ► Special Initiatives and/or Representative Health and Human Services Grants:

- **Healthy Beginnings + Healthy Communities Collaboratives** – Ten collaboratives are supported for five-years to work within their communities and across the region to advocate for children's health through advocacy (\$4.2 million over five years).
- **Kaiser Permanente Community Fund** – The Kaiser Permanente Community Fund at Northwest Health

Foundation is a 12-year sunset fund with a mission to improve the health of communities throughout the Kaiser Permanente Northwest service region, with a specific focus on addressing the "upstream" factors that create or inhibit community health, also known as the social determinants of health (\$32 million over 12 years).

- **Playworks Pacific Northwest Partnership** – Funding of this partnership supports Playworks Pacific Northwest's efforts to expand and adapt to new communities in Oregon and southwest Washington (\$500,000 over five years).
- **Children's Dental Health Initiative** – Foundation support for this initiative helps communities start or expand comprehensive children's dental health programs in school settings (\$325,000 over five years).
- **Learning Together, Connecting Communities Initiative** – Financial support helps subsidize the operating costs of organizations representing disability communities. Funding also supports using this partnership opportunity to build relationships, inform our future funding to and partnership with disability communities, and explore intersections between disability and race/ethnicity (\$110,000 in 2015).

### Promoting Equity to Improve Health:

*"Too often, where we're born, the color of our skin, or living with a disability determines our chance at a healthy life.*

*Our commitment to promoting equity is a commitment to ending this reality. We have a shared fate—as individuals within a community and communities within society. All communities need the ability to shape their own present and future. We believe that we will improve the health of all communities through deliberate strategies that promote equity and eliminate health inequities."*

**Nichole June Maher**  
CEO & President

