



**Land
Enhancement
and Restoration
Project**
March 26, 2018
USDA Pond
Siletz, Oregon

Photos by Andy Taylor

Kathy Kentta, Healthy Traditions Project coordinator (far left), shows Sunny Jimenez (above) and Lily Whitehead (right) how to separate the weeds from the root tangle and clean the old dirt off for replanting. JR Butler, Youth Development Program coordinator (far right), also helped out. This spring break activity showed volunteers how to identify and remove invasive plants so our native plants can grow healthier.



Tribe to participate in regional HIV prevention grant with counties, OHA

NEWPORT, Ore. – Since HIV was first identified in 1984, the public health and medical communities have made great strides in advancing effective prevention and treatment strategies. Despite this, we continue to see new infections every year, including a consistent upward trend in newly identified HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in our region.

The Oregon Health Authority is launching new initiatives to end HIV infections around the state and our region is taking part. Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians are partnering on a five-year grant to expand comprehensive HIV prevention strategies throughout the region.

Through this grant, the regional partners will hire harm reduction outreach workers who will use a person-centered approach to reach out to individuals in our community who are at high risk for HIV infection. They will offer rapid HIV testing and prevention resources in the field, educate individuals about HIV transmission and effective prevention methods, and refer persons with diagnosed STIs and HIV to treatment and other health care services.

A key component of the project is educating the community about HIV/STIs and the importance of testing and prevention. Across the state, six out of 10 Oregonians do not know their HIV status.

This is of particular concern because an individual can become infected with HIV and in turn infect others for years without noticing symptoms.

In addition to providing testing through the project's harm reduction workers, this project will help strengthen partnerships between local public health agencies and health care providers across the region to improve comprehensive HIV/STI education, testing and treatment services.

The project will also work with medical providers to expand the use of new prevention measures. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is an example of a medication that can be prescribed by a medical provider and is effective in preventing HIV infection among those at high risk. This medication coupled with other strategies, such as using condoms during sexual activity and not engaging in needle sharing, are part of a comprehensive prevention strategy to reduce the risk of HIV infection and get our region closer to ending all HIV infections.

To find out more about the program, contact our regional coordinator, Erin Parrish, at eparrish@co.lincoln.or.us.

For more information on Oregon's statewide initiative to end HIV infection, visit endhivoregon.org.

Lincoln County Public Health, in collaboration with our community partners, provides leadership to assure the conditions for healthy communities.

Regional HIV Early Intervention & Outreach Program

Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians are partnering to provide testing, prevention, education and outreach services to individuals in the region at risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

+ Harm Reduction
Outreach workers will be in the community working with individuals most at risk for HIV infection.

- Testing.** 6 out of 10 Oregonians do not know their HIV status.
- Prevention.** There are effective prevention methods like condoms, refraining from needle sharing, and medication.
- Referral to treatment.** Those who test positive for HIV will be referred to providers.

+ Community Awareness
There are many preventative tools you can use to protect yourself.

- Use barrier methods like condoms when engaging in sexual activity.
- If you're at a high risk for HIV infection, there is medication that can help reduce your risk. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, PrEP, can be prescribed by a medical provider.

Don't engage in needle sharing.

+ Provider Collaboration

- We will work with healthcare providers to improve availability of HIV and other STI testing.
- We will educate providers to increase their knowledge of emerging preventative methods.
- We will help to connect at risk individuals to the healthcare system.

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