Project Title: Pathways Community Hub Project Geographic and Population Expansion Project
Applicant Organization Name: Northeast Oregon Network (NEON)
Address: 913 Main Avenue, La Grande, OR 97850
Type of Entity: Community Based 501c3 Independent Health Network
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The Northeast Oregon Network (NEON) proposes and expansion in the Network Service Area and Target Populations by expanding to include providers and partners in Malheur and Umatilla Counties in Hub governance and implementation activities. The anticipated HUB expansion region of Umatilla and Malheur County have a combined area covering 13,161 square miles and population of 107,199, a population increase of over 50,000 from the current network population. Fully 26% of the Hub expansion population is Hispanic, many of whom are Migrant/Seasonal Farmworkers. Two and a half percent of the population is Native American. Almost half of the population is overweight/obese, and only 65% have had recommended cholesterol screens. Thirty one percent of the expansion region is living at or below poverty level, nearly twice the state and national rates. Given the high rates of adverse cardiac health outcomes, and high incidence rates of diabetes, the target population will be adults with cardiac or diabetes diagnoses, or significant risk factors for such.

The Northeast Oregon Network (NEON) is a health collaborative network whose membership encompasses a wide variety of partners, both inside and outside of the network area. The network proposes to expand the current implementation of the Pathways Community Hub Evidence Based practice by serving two new geographies and two new at risk populations. The Pathways model is an AHRQ Innovative Practice and was developed by Drs. Mark and Sarah Redding with the Community Health Access Project (CHAP) in Ohio. The proposed project will address the Statutory Charge of Strengthening the Rural Health Care System as a Whole by addressing the Topical Charge of improving population health by implementing and evidence based practice to address health disparities and enhance population health. The goals of the NEON Pathways Community Hub expansion project are to:

- Increase the geographic areas and target populations served by Network Activities by adding two new counties and serving Migrant/Seasonal Farmworker and Native American Tribal Populations as well as low income populations;
- Increase access to and impact of Care Coordination Services through the use of a standardized evidence based care coordination best practice that also includes addressing social determinant of health needs;
- Realign financial incentives for care coordination towards a payment for outcome model;
- Improve patient and population health outcomes for cardiac and diabetic indicators; and
- Achieve ongoing non-grant sustainability of the Pathways Community Hub Program.

NEON is requesting RHND funds in the amount $300,000 a year for each of the three project years.

NEON is requesting a funding preference based upon Qualification 1. Both Umatilla and Malheur Counties are designated geographic and population HPSAs.