

OKLAHOMA STATE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Annual Report

2025



LEADING OKLAHOMA
TO PROSPERITY
THROUGH HEALTH

TABLE OF
Contents

- 02** ————— Message from the Commissioner
- 03** ————— Rural Health Transformation Program
- 04** ————— EHR
- 08** ————— Local Impact
- 18** ————— Rabies Prevention & Investigation
- 21** ————— Through Shared Knowledge
- 23** ————— Financials
- 25** ————— Looking Ahead to 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE **Commissioner**



Dear Oklahomans,

Public health is, at its core, about people, families striving for healthy lives, communities supporting one another, and professionals working every day to prevent problems before they start. As you read this report, I hope you see not only what we accomplished this year, but also the future we are building together.

Over the past several years, OSDH has adopted a culture of continuous improvement. Achieving national public health accreditation — a voluntary but stringent external review — demonstrates our dedication to transparency and accountability to the people we serve. We understand that responsible management of taxpayer funds is just as important as providing quality health services. To meet these goals, we intentionally blend public health expertise with modern business strategies.

This commitment is evident in our efforts to modernize our systems and strengthen our infrastructure. In 2025, we achieved a major milestone with the rollout of our first agency-wide Electronic Health Record system. For the first time, information can follow the client rather than the location, creating a more seamless and person-centered experience. We also started replacing our legacy disease surveillance system and successfully upgraded the vital records death certificate system. These foundational improvements position OSDH to respond more quickly, share information more effectively, and better protect Oklahomans from emerging health threats.

Simultaneously, we are making strategic operational choices to strengthen long-term sustainability. We are advancing a more centralized service model bringing together logistics, warehousing, procurement, and mailroom operations into a more coordinated system. In parallel, we are moving toward centralized grants management to create a clearer, more consistent “single source of truth” for compliance and fiscal transparency, particularly as approximately 65% of our funding is tied to federal grants.

While efficiency benefits our operations, it is not the ultimate goal. Instead, it serves as the foundation that enables our staff to dedicate their time and expertise to what matters most — improving health.

Encouragingly, we are beginning to see early signs of progress. According to the 2025 America’s Health Rankings report, Oklahoma moved from 47th to 45th nationally. We also saw meaningful improvement in adult obesity rates and in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). While we have more work ahead, these trends suggest that sustained partnerships, targeted interventions, and local engagement can move long-standing challenges in the right direction.

Improving public health takes time and teamwork. It involves working with tribal nations, community groups, health care workers, teachers, businesses, and local governments. It requires focusing on prevention, not just treatment. Most importantly, it needs optimism — believing that healthier communities can be achieved.

The work reflected in this report represents more than a year of effort. It shows a long-term commitment to building a stronger, more responsive public health system. We are modernizing today so that Oklahoma’s children, families, and communities will be healthier tomorrow.

Thank you for your trust and partnership as we continue this work together.

With gratitude and hope,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Reed". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Keith Reed | Commissioner of Health

RURAL HEALTH

Transformation Program

H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, established a \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program, dedicating \$10 billion annually from 2026 to 2030 to strengthen rural health care nationwide. Half of the funding is non-competitive, allocated equally to states with approved applications, and the other half is competitive and awarded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) based on demonstrated need.

Oklahoma developed its program application through an inclusive and thorough stakeholder engagement process designed to reflect the diverse voices and lived experiences of rural Oklahomans. Feedback was collected from hospitals, health care providers, community organizations, clients, advocacy groups, and Tribal Nations to ensure the program's priorities and implementation strategies are rooted in community realities and aligned with statewide goals for rural health improvement.



Engagement included:

Inquiry Regarding Rural Health Challenges and Funding Priorities:

Over 400 responses received.

Listening Sessions: Four events statewide to gather local insights and needs.

Association Consultations: Meetings with professional and provider associations to identify member needs and opportunities for transformation.

Tribal Consultation: Collaborative discussions with Tribal Nations and the Indian Health Service (IHS), involving over 60 representatives across the state.

Targeted interviews: Over 40 discussions with rural providers, educational institutions, community organizations, and national experts.

State Steering Committee: Formed a cross-agency leadership group—including the Department of Health, Office of Rural Health, Health Care Authority, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Health Workforce Training Commission, State Department of Education, the Office of the Governor, and a Legislative Liaison.



Impact opportunities

Rural Oklahomans face deeper and more persistent health disparities than their urban counterparts across every major indicator—demographic, clinical, access, and financial. The data reveal a health system that is overextended, under-resourced, and vulnerable to further decline without targeted, coordinated investment. Despite these challenges, Oklahoma has strong assets: established networks of tribal, state, and community partners; growing telehealth capacity; and deep rural engagement. The Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program leverages these strengths to stabilize and modernize rural health infrastructure, shifting the focus of care toward prevention, coordination, and long-term sustainability.



Benefits of the program

- Oklahoma envisions a future where every community, regardless of size or location, has access to high-quality, locally grounded care that is connected through technology, supported by regional collaboration, and sustained by a strong rural workforce. In this system, data moves securely across networks, allowing providers to make timely, informed decisions. Rural healthcare will remain financially stable, innovative, and resilient for generations.
- To realize this vision, the RHT Program is built around six interconnected initiatives that tackle the main barriers to access, quality, and sustainability. Each initiative supports the State's strategic pillars and meets federal requirements, promoting improvements in access, outcomes, technology integration, partnerships, workforce development, data-driven decisions, financial stability, and the identification and mitigation of factors leading to rural hospital closures.

State RHT Program initiatives include:

- o Innovating the care model: bringing care to communities and communities to care through virtual care options, transportation support, expanded care teams, and funding for health infrastructure.
- o Moving upstream: investing in community-led health and wellness support, including connections to care and innovative chronic disease prevention and management programs.
- o Growing next-gen rural talent: developing a pipeline for health care professionals in rural communities, from “grow your own” programs to recruiting talent to rural areas.
- o Facilitating regional collaboration: strengthening partnerships among rural providers to leverage scale for administrative support, advanced technology, and governance assistance.
- o Shifting to value: enabling a pathway to risk-sharing through technical assistance, infrastructure development, and quality incentive programs.
- o Building health data utility: expanding access, use, and applications of health data through investments in core technology (e.g., Electronic Health Records), interoperability, and data and analytics capabilities.

TRANSFORMING CARE Through A Modernized EHR

This year, the Oklahoma State Department of Health made significant progress in modernizing clinical services with a new Electronic Health Record (EHR) system. This upgrade is already improving the client experience, enhancing public health outcomes, and supporting staff across many county health departments.

Better Care, Faster Service

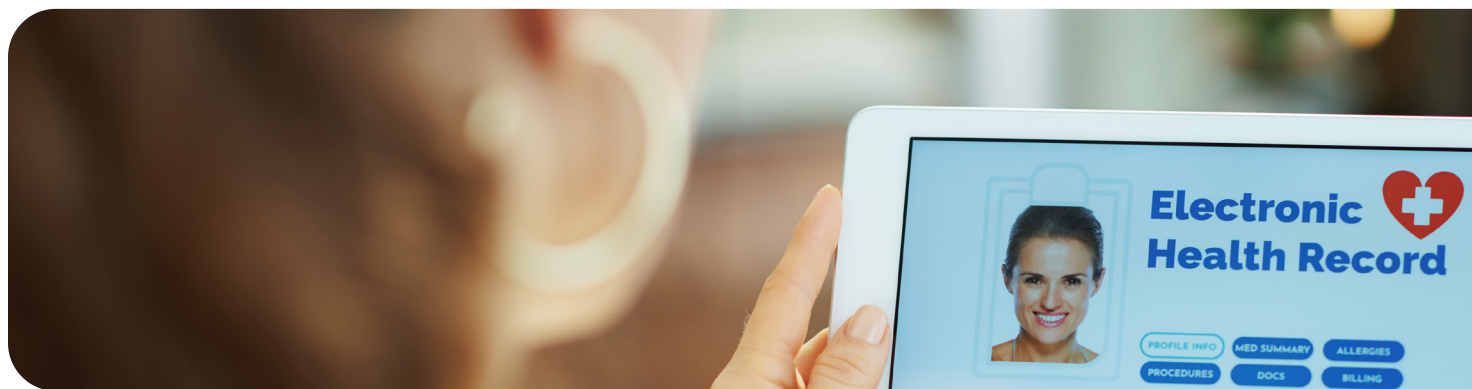
Clients will experience shorter wait times thanks to streamlined registration, scheduling, and check-in processes. Lab results will reach providers and clients faster, helping to reduce delays in diagnosis and treatment. Immunization records will be more accurate and easier to access, which improves school readiness, child care compliance, and outbreak prevention. With statewide access to clinical history and lab results, repeat testing will decrease, and chronic disease management will improve through automated reminders and care-gap alerts.

Integrated data will also improve maternal and child health. Prenatal, WIC, newborn screening, and home visiting information will work together to support families more holistically. In the coming months, medication and allergy alerts, along with new decision-support tools, will enhance client safety and reduce prescribing errors.

Stronger Coordination and Consistent Quality

Standardized workflows across county health departments are enhancing care consistency statewide. Referrals and coordination between OSDH programs and community providers have become more streamlined, supporting a connected, whole-person care model. Unified client tracking and vaccination monitoring improve emergency readiness, while electronic forms and signatures reduce client paperwork.

Billing and documentation accuracy have also improved, reducing manual errors and protecting clients from incorrect charges while supporting responsible revenue management. As residents move or visit different counties, their records transfer smoothly, ensuring continuous care



A Year of Milestones

In 2025, the agency achieved major EHR implementation milestones:

Q1: Patagonia Health delivered Train-the-Trainer sessions for 70 district trainers.

Q2: More than 400 staff participated in and contributed to User Acceptance Testing. The Implementation Workgroup developed the complete training curriculum.

Q3: Clinic staff at 12 locations received training.

Q4: Twelve clinics successfully went “live”.

Looking Ahead

The momentum continues in 2026 with:

Q1: Twenty-five clinics will “go-live”.

Q2: Forty-five clinics will “go-live”, along with the rollout of significant enhancements, including Community-Based Services and MassHealth modules.

Q3/Q4: Launch of the client portal, expanding access and engagement for Oklahoma.

This modern EHR is transforming how we deliver care, making it faster, safer, more connected, and more centered on the needs of every Oklahoman.



LOCAL Impact

District 1

Serving Cimarron, Texas, Beaver, Harper, Woods, Ellis, Woodward, Dewey, Roger Mills and Custer Counties

District 1 had an impactful and rewarding year in 2025, bringing great satisfaction to both our staff and the clients we serve across Northwest Oklahoma.

Throughout the year, we organized numerous events and client visits where essential services were delivered. Our dedicated staff traveled extensively – covering our 12,663-square-mile district- to connect with local partners and state agencies, ensuring that rural communities received the crucial resources and support they needed. Together, our team of 47 staff members brought forward an impressive 513 years of services to the state.

While 2025 presented many challenges and adversities, our nurses and clerks responded with flexibility and determination. They stepped up during short-staffed days, attended off-site trainings, organized flu clinics and managed the ongoing flow of meetings, a rollout of an Electronic Health Record and responsibilities of county health department clinics. As client traffic increased and many community members faced difficult times, our services became an essential source of support and connection. Each visit was met with friendly, professional care that ensured client needs were fully addressed.

Our clinics thrived, and our team grew even stronger – working closely together to uphold our mission and support the health of our communities.

Noteworthy highlights include:

- Monthly WIC clinic established in rural hospital.
- Extended clinic hours to meet the needs of working families.
- Healthy Heart Class Series
- Diabetes Management Classes.
- CPR and Safety Trainings
- School partnerships to provide hearing screenings
- Hosted Back2School events on the same day in different towns.
- Hosted first Rural Health Transformation listening session.
- Infectious Disease Prevention and Response collaboration with local community during measles cases, providing education on prevention and mitigation.
- Collaboration with international company to help mitigate the spread of Hepatitis A.
- Hosted dental health event.
- First site in history of OSDH to implement Electronic Health Records.

District 2

Serving Alfalfa, Grant, Major, Garfield, Blaine, Kingfisher, Logan and Canadian Counties

Program Impact by the Numbers:

Early Intervention Programs

Children First: 824 client visits

Child Guidance: 777 in-clinic client visits

Community partnerships remained a vital part of service delivery throughout the year. In collaboration with the Cheyenne Arapaho Development Center, multidisciplinary developmental screenings took place in February, June, and December, involving a behavioral health clinician, a child development specialist, and a speech-language pathologist. These efforts screened about 70 children, helping to identify developmental needs and connect families to appropriate services

Additionally, the Cheyenne Arapaho Head Start and Child Guidance Program offered speech and language screenings conducted by a speech-language pathologist. In FY2025, about 99 students were screened, aiding early detection of speech and language delays and demonstrating the program's dedication to early intervention.

- **SoonerStart:**
13,508 Client interactions
- **Child Passenger Safety:** 384 car seats distributed
- **Community Health Workers (CHW):** 413 Client interactions
- **Clinical Social Workers (CSW):** 260 Client interactions
- **Environmental Health (Sanitarian):** 3,020 Food inspections completed, including pools
Food licensed establishments: 1,580
- **Health Education**
Total number of participants: 6,932
Community events/Health Education supported: 74
- **Clinic Visits, including WIC:**
Client visits: 21,787
- **Local Emergency Response:**
Community events supported, presentations, and training delivered: 135

Community Engagement and Mobile Outreach:

- Total number of Community Engagement Events: 102
- Total Number of Mobile Unit County Events: 57
- Number of Vaccines Given: 423
- Number of Health Promotion Participants: 203
- Number of Other Mobile Visits: 796
- Expanding Family Support Through the Pregnancy Resource Navigator Program.
- District 2's CHW-PRN team launched the Littlest Okie Baby Express to support families in our four most rural counties—Alfalfa, Blaine, Grant & Major. The effort, serving 32 families in six months, brought together.

District 3

Serving Kay, Noble, Osage, Pawnee, Payne, Lincoln and Creek Counties

Through evidence-based programs and trusted local partnerships, District 3 continues to make a measurable difference in the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

Program Impact by the Numbers:

Clinic Services Provided:

27,728 client encounters

Child Passenger Safety:

502 car seats distributed

Community Outreach & Health Education:

488 classes held

772 total events/activities attended

Community Health Workers (CHW)/PRN:

Over 1000 client encounters

Environmental Health (Sanitarian):

3,746 food inspections completed

Mobile Unit Outreach:

427 clients served

WIC: 56,575 Clients served

Noteworthy highlights include:

- **Car Seat Event at Headstart/Early Headstart| Creek County**
Creek county staff held care seat events at 4 sites for Head Start/ Early Head Start serving 71 children.
- **Boys from Oklahoma | Payne County**
Assisted with Safety Tent at the Boys From Oklahoma Festival in Stillwater providing sunscreen and bug spray. The event attracted over 200,000 attendees.
- **Herbfest | Kay County|Kay County**
staff provided information material at the Herbfest in Ponca City. Herbfest attracts over 10,000 visitors each year.
- **Girl Power Wise Guys Conference | Lincoln County**
Over 400 fifth grader from across Lincoln County attended Girl Power Wise Guys, which provides opportunities for them to explore career opportunities.
- **All Staff Meeting | Noble County**
District 3 staff met in Noble County and learned about early school houses in the Cherokee Strip.
- **Cavalcade Rodeo | Osage County**
Provided cooling stations and information at the largest amateur rodeo in the nation.
- **Mobile Wellness Unit in Cleveland | Pawnee County**
Provided services to eastern Pawnee/ southern Osage counties.
- **Community Health Need Assessment | Payne County**
Completed the Community Health Needs assessment in Payne County, highlighted with over 70 participants in the listening session.

District 4

Serving Washington, Nowata, Craig, Ottawa, Rogers, Mayes, Delaware and Wagoner Counties

Through evidence-based programs and trusted local partnerships, District 4 continues to make a measurable difference in the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

Program Impact by the Numbers:

Early Intervention Programs

Children First: 1,327 client visits

Child Guidance: 1,164 client visits

Child Passenger Safety

Car seats distributed: 355

Total safety checks conducted: 101

Community Health Workers (CHW)

Client interactions: 1,804

Environmental Health (Sanitarian): Food inspections completed: 2,574

Food licenses issued: 5,619

Health Education

Total number of participants: 12,25

Educational presentations delivered: 321

Community events supported: 45

Community Engagement and Outreach

Expanding Family Support Through the PRN Program. District 4 launched a Pregnancy Resource Navigator (PRN) pilot program to strengthen early family support.

PRN Daycare Pilot: Connects licensed daycares directly to connects licensed daycares directly to Pregnancy Resource Navigators, giving parents and caregivers access to needed to services, resources, and education otherwise not attainable or unknown during pregnancy and infancy.

- **Noteworthy highlights include:**

- **ShamROCKIN' Family Fun Day | Rogers County**

The 4th Annual ShamROCKIN' Family Fun Day brought families together in Claremore for a free, health-focused event featuring screenings, education, and resources. Nearly 50 local agencies participated in demonstrating the power of collaboration and community trust.

- **Family Fun in the Sun Day | Mayes County**

More than 350 participants were served in Pryor through on-site health services, including nutrition education, hearing screenings, car seat safety, and Community Health Worker referrals, which connect families to care after the event.

- **Supporting Local Employers Through Work@Health**

Through the CDC's Work@Health program, District 4 partnered with employers to promote healthier workplaces, stronger morale, and increased productivity. District 4 staff earned national recognition for leadership, positioning the district as a model for workplace wellness training.

- **Community Impact: Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance**

Participants in District 4's Tai Chi classes reported meaningful improvements in balance, flexibility, and overall movement, highlighting the program's role in supporting healthy aging and chronic disease prevention.

District 5

Serving Beckham, Washita, Caddo, Greer, Kiowa, Harmon, Jackson, Tillman, Cotton and Comanche Counties

District 5 in southwest Oklahoma made significant progress in public health in 2025 through expanded community outreach, infrastructure upgrades, and innovative programs aligned with the 2029 Strategic Plan. With comprehensive services and strategic partnerships, the district enhanced its ability to protect and improve residents' health across all ten counties.

Community Engagement

Efforts reached thousands of residents through health education, wellness programs, and community partnerships that promote positive health behaviors and healthy relationships. Programs and events addressing healthy relationships, trauma-informed care, mental health awareness, substance misuse prevention, and chronic disease management empowered individuals with knowledge and skills to make healthier choices. Educational initiatives on topics including nutrition, physical activity, sexual health, tobacco prevention, and life skills equipped youth and adults with tools for long-term well-being. Community Health Workers/Pregnancy Resource Navigators connected individuals and families with essential resources, SoonerCare enrollment assistance, and

support services to address social determinants of health. With over 350 events such as coalition meetings, health fairs, Tai Chi classes, diabetes prevention programs, and NEAR (Neurobiology, Epigenetics, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), & Resilience) Science training, District 5 fostered community resilience and created lasting positive impacts on public health throughout southwest Oklahoma.

The Mobile Wellness Unit

Provided over 1,200 services across the district, offering health screenings, immunizations, and educational sessions that empowered individuals with knowledge to make informed health decisions. Our nursing teams conducted tens of thousands of clinic visits while investigating nearly 2,000 cases of communicable disease. From maternal and child health services to Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) prevention and tuberculosis treatment, the nursing staff promoted health education in schools and communities.

District 5's clerical and administrative teams

Showed exceptional dedication during the district's transition to a new Electronic Health Records (EHR)

system. Our team not only successfully managed the implementation and launch within District 5 but also played a crucial support role across Oklahoma by providing training, troubleshooting, and guidance to help other districts prepare for their own EHR launches.

Child Guidance and SoonerStart

Through collaboration with partner organizations, our Child Guidance and SoonerStart programs built a strong, unified support system for children and families. Early Intervention teams conducted nearly 2,000 visits to families. Notably, the district hosted the LAMP (Language Acquisition through Motor Planning) training, marking the first time this specialized speech therapy method was offered in southwest Oklahoma. The team also partnered on a Parent Empowerment Workshop focused on IEP advocacy, making helpful resources accessible to families in our district.

Consumer Health Services

Maintained strict oversight of public facilities by conducting over 1,800 inspections of restaurants, swimming pools, hotels, tattoo shops, and commercial food operations to protect community safety and prevent foodborne illnesses.

District 6

Serving Grady, McClain, Pottawatomie Seminole and Hughes Counties

Noteworthy highlights include:

Three Weeks That Changed a Life

SoonerStart is designed to help meet the needs of families with infants and toddlers (birth through age three) who have disabilities and/or developmental delays. One of our District 6 Soonerstart staff, Melissa Sneed, who serves as a Speech Pathologist, recently had a positive influence on a child's speech development. Kelly Hughes, whose son Nolan receives services through the health department, wrote, "Melissa has only seen Nolan a few times, but we have seen more progress with Nolan's speech and communication in the past three weeks than we have in the past two years. I am so thankful for her" What melissa likely saw as a typical visit changed the course of Nolan's development within very few visits. Kelly added, "Three weeks ago, it was almost impossible to get him to try and repeat one word. Today he said 'Thank you mama and 'More milk please'". This is just one example of the lasting impact that our staff continue to have on our clients.

Building Sustainable Support for Breastfeeding Families

District 6 County Health Departments joined in the global celebration of World Breastfeeding Week 2025, embracing the theme: "Prioritize Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems." Each county hosted events that brought together families, community partners, and health staff to promote breastfeeding support. From engaging speakers to meaningful conversations, the week highlighted the importance of building strong, sustainable systems that help families thrive. Additionally, our staff created 30-60 second instructional videos for breast pump assembly and use. They also created an easy-to-use manual to streamline services for our clients.

District 7

Serving Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Muskogee, Cherokee, Adair, McIntosh, Haskell and Sequoyah Counties

Local Schools Receive Medical Care Through Mobile Wellness Unit | District 7

The District 7 Mobile Wellness Unit brought health care services directly to fifteen rural schools and Head Start programs across the district. These visits provide a convenient option for families and may include well-child and sick-child visits, immunizations, and Head Start or sports/band physicals. By bringing care to schools, families can access essential medical services close to home, especially in areas where primary care physicians and clinics are limited or hard to reach.

OSU Medical Student Rotation | Tahlequah, OK

This program provides an observational rotation for Oklahoma State University medical students in partnership with the Cherokee County Health Department. During the rotation, students receive an overview of Health Department operations, including internal protocols, the Oklahoma State Department of Health Medical Director's role and responsibilities, and the range of programs and services offered.

The experience is designed to familiarize future physicians with public health functions and highlight rural health resources that may support patient care in their future medical practice. The program offers exposure to rural public health systems and provides insight into the breadth of services health departments deliver to their communities, often exceeding students' initial expectations.

Community Health Bingo | Sallisaw, OK

Community Health Bingo is a recurring event for adults ages 50 and older. These events offer senior citizens a fun and welcoming opportunity to socialize with others in their community while learning about important health topics. Participants can enjoy bingo, win prizes, and connect with helpful local resources.

Family Resource Day | Okmulgee, OK

District 7 and the Okmulgee YMCA co-hosted Okmulgee Family Resource Day, a community event designed to support local families. Health Department staff worked with local organizations to collect diaper donations and coordinate a wide range of community booths offering family-focused resources. Families received no-cost diapers, car seat checks, replacement car seats if needed, and learned about health department programs such as Pregnancy Resource Navigators and SoonerStart.

Rural Health Listening Session | Muskogee, OK

The Muskogee County Health Department hosted a regional Rural Health Transformation Program listening session. The session was well attended with representation from local law enforcement, school districts, hospital systems, and community members. The listening session yielded excellent ideas and helpful insights into rural health, which contributed to Oklahoma's award of \$223.5 million in first-year funds.

Doula Facilitator Training | Muskogee, OK

The Pregnancy Resource Navigator program staff, along with community partners, completed Doula Facilitator Training that is designed to strengthen local maternal health support. By equipping staff and partners with doula-facilitation skills, District 7 is laying the foundation for enhanced maternal support, improved birth experiences, and greater access to care for families across the region.

District 8

Serving Stephens, Garvin, Pontotoc, Murray, Jefferson, Carter, Johnston, Love and Marshall Counties

Clinical Services:

2025 was a busy year for D8's 10 locations, with 26,443 clinic appointments attended.

Child Guidance recorded 621 visits attended and over 70 new clients. The program continues to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to supporting children's emotional and behavioral well-being through compassionate, evidence-based services.

SoonerStart made a meaningful impact across the District, recording 7,915 service logs. Through early intervention and family-centered support, the program continued to help young children reach their developmental milestones in nurturing home environments.

Children First provided 653 home visits, offering personalized guidance and education to expecting and first-time mothers. These visits strengthened parent-child relationships and promoted healthy beginnings for infants and young children.

The Mobile Wellness Unit remained a vital resource, visiting 65 mobile clinic sites and providing 346 services to 333 clients at these events. In addition, the MWU served 508 clients in clinic over 109 days, delivering 542 health services to meet community needs.

Community Engagement and Outreach

District staff remained active throughout the year, attending 52 events and engaging with community members in every county of the district. Their outreach extended to individuals in corporate environments as well as rural and underserved areas, ensuring that health education and resources were accessible to all.

Educators demonstrated their commitment to wellness by providing 135 Tai Chi and SAIL classes, 24 car seat services, attending 17 community events, and delivering 43 educational presentations. In late 2025, staff also participated in CATCH training to prepare for the implementation of this health-focused curriculum in 2026.

Community Health Workers and Pregnancy Resource Navigators made a significant impact by assisting 474 clients throughout the year. Of these, 294 individuals received CHW services, while 191 benefited from PRN support, helping families connect with vital health and social resources.

The Jefferson County Health Department strengthened community partnerships by collaborating with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. Together, they provided 24 food boxes across 21 households, serving a total of 37 individuals and addressing food insecurity within the community.

Public Health and Consumer Safety

Public Health Specialists conducted 2,596 food inspections, 100 lodging inspections, and 253 pool inspections, 94 new food licenses and five new lodging licenses were issued, reflecting continued growth and development within the district.

District 9

Serving Pittsburg, Latimer, LeFlore, Coal, Atoka, Pushmataha, Bryan, Choctaw and McCurtain Counties

Rural Health in Action

In District 9, success is not defined by convenience or abundance; it is defined by reach, persistence, and trust. Across 10,246 square miles of southeastern Oklahoma, District 9 teams delivered care in clinics, schools, shelters, churches, mobile units, and disaster zones, ensuring that geography did not determine whether someone received care. Despite workforce shortages, transportation barriers, and limited specialty services, District 9 staff continued to show up often as the only consistent healthcare presence in their communities.

Care That Moves with the Community

Mobilizing staff beyond brick and mortar buildings played a critical role in 2025, bringing services directly to remote towns and vulnerable populations. These staff and units supported immunizations, women's health services, STI screening, and outreach to unhoused individuals, often in coordination with food distributions and community events.

Immunization Partnerships That Work

In 2025, District 9 marked 10 years of partnership with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, administering nearly 3,000 influenza vaccines through school-based clinics and community outreach events across the district.

Women's Health Access Expanded

District 9 implemented Take Charge! services in LeFlore County and partnered with obstetrical providers in LeFlore and McCurtain Counties, delivering more than 170 women's health and maternity services in 2025.

Childhood Injury Prevention That Saves Lives

District 9 distributed more than 380 car seats and achieved proxy certification for local car seat technician evaluations. Staff also completed CarFit training to support older adult driver safety.

Early Detection Through School Health

More than 770 hearing screenings were conducted in schools, with approximately 10% of students referred for further evaluation. At least one child was diagnosed with permanent hearing loss previously unknown to the family.

Disaster Response When It Matters Most

Following a tornado in Blanco, District 9 staff coordinated emergency response, provided tetanus vaccinations, and supported displaced residents through shelter-based public health services.

Building Understanding Through Bridges Out of Poverty

District 9 hosted Bridges Out of Poverty workshops in Bryan and Pittsburg Counties, engaging over 30 community organizations and strengthening cross-sector collaboration.

Empowering Families Through Aha! / Getting Ahead

Getting Ahead workshops were delivered in partnership with a women and children's shelter, providing families tools for stability, planning, and resilience.

Community Baby Resource Fair

District 9 hosted its first Community Baby Resource Fair in Bryan County, serving 118 participants representing 41 families through integrated education, prevention, and direct service connections.

District 10

Serving Cleveland County

Program Impact by the Numbers:

We made significant progress on our building renovations, initiated Electronic Health Records (EHR) transition, expanded community programs, participated in community coalitions, hosted community health fairs and other large-scale events, piloted state-wide programs, and worked to bridge gaps to essential services for our clients. Multiple teams across our district won state-wide awards and recognition for their dedication to public health.

This year, we have tackled numerous challenges and opportunities, from building projects to launching new programs. I am proud to know that District 10 is always at the forefront, finding new ways to better serve our clients and partners. Our staff embodies innovation, professionalism, and passion for public health, which is essential in successfully achieving better health outcomes for our Cleveland County community.

The Numbers

Client
Check-Ins: **19,107**

WIC
Visits: **5,923**

Mobile
Wellness
Unit
Services: **5,923**

Inspections
Completed: **3,825**

SoonerStart
Clients Served: **3,825**

Child
Guidance
Services: **2,083**

Children
First Visits: **154**

Car Seat Installation Events:

Car seat installation events continue to make a meaningful impact on child passenger safety in our community. Through partnerships with the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, the Center for Children and Families, and local fire and police departments, families receive hands-on education, proper installation support, and personalized guidance to ensure their children are secured safely on every ride. These collaborative efforts strengthen community trust and empower parents and caregivers with the knowledge and confidence to keep their children protected on the road.

Health Education and InBody Screenings with Community Partners

These screenings empower participants with personalized health insights while connecting them to additional education, preventive resources, and follow-up programs through CCHD. By pairing on-site assessments with health education, our outreach activations help reduce barriers to care, increase early detection of health risks, and support residents—especially seniors—in making informed choices that enhance their long-term well-being.

PUBLIC HEALTH AT WORK

Rabies Prevention

Domestic Animal Bites

Why it matters

Rabies is nearly always fatal once symptoms appear—but it is preventable with quick, coordinated public health action. Public Health Specialists (Sanitarians) play a frontline role in protecting Oklahomans after animal bites and potential rabies exposure.

What we do

Local health departments investigate animal bites reported by health care providers, animal control, and law enforcement. Public Health Specialists act quickly to assess risk and protect both bite victims and the community.

How it works

- Contact the bite victim to gather details about the incident and the animal involved
- Identify the animal and locate the owner when possible
- Verify rabies vaccination status for dogs, cats, and ferrets
- Require a 10-day observation period to ensure the animal shows no signs of rabies

Protecting people first

- **Vaccinated animals:** Confined at home under public health guidance
- **Unvaccinated animals:** Quarantined at a licensed veterinary facility
- **Noncompliance:** The Public Health Specialists work with the agency's legal division to obtain court-ordered quarantine when needed

These steps help determine whether a person needs rabies post-exposure treatment—avoiding unnecessary medical costs while ensuring safety.



PUBLIC HEALTH AT WORK

Rabies Investigation



Beyond household pets

Public Health Specialists also investigate bites from wildlife and exotic animals in collaboration with the Infectious Disease Prevention and Response team. These cases often require coordination with veterinarians, laboratories, and law enforcement to assess exposure risk and determine next steps.

What it takes

This work often happens after hours, in the field, and under challenging conditions. Public Health Specialists must make timely, evidence-based decisions to protect lives and enforce public health law.

The impact

- Prevents a fatal disease
- Protects bite victims and families
- Supports health care providers with expert risk assessment
- Upholds state public health laws
- Strengthens community safety across Oklahoma

Bottom line

Rabies prevention is a critical public health service that safeguards Oklahomans every day. Through rapid response, legal authority, and professional expertise, Public Health Specialists help ensure that a preventable disease does not become a tragedy.

Wildlife, Bat and Exotic Animal Bites

Why it matters:

Bats are the leading cause of human rabies in the U.S., often due to unnoticed or underestimated exposure.

What we do

- The Oklahoma State Department of Health's Infectious Disease Prevention and Response (IDPR) team leads bat investigations statewide to protect Oklahomans.
- IDPR serves as Oklahoma's only consultation service for human rabies risk assessments.
- Guidance is available to health care providers and the public 24/7 through the Epidemiologist-on-Call phone line.

How it works

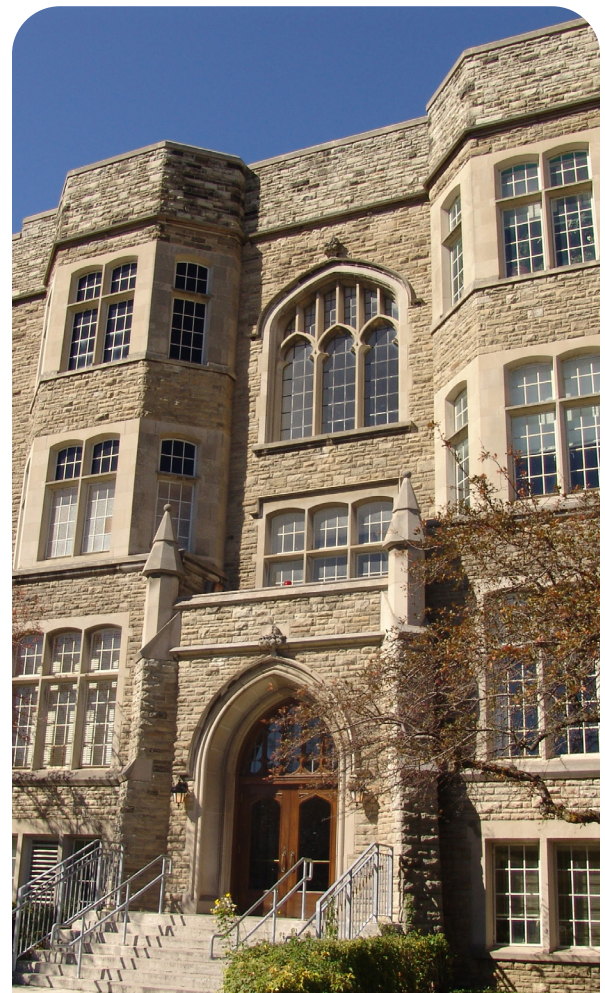
- Investigate mass bat exposure events to assess risk and identify affected individuals.
- Recommend post-exposure prophylaxis when needed.
- Provide on-site education and coordinate vaccination clinics with partners.

Partnerships:

This work is carried out in close collaboration with county health departments, tribal partners, health care facilities, wildlife experts, and state and federal agencies.

Where it happens:

Investigations have occurred in university housing, public schools, health care facilities, government-assisted housing, and vacation rental properties—ensuring timely response and protection for communities across Oklahoma.



ADVANCING PUBLIC HEALTH

Through Shared Knowledge

Public health doesn't progress by chance; it advances through shared knowledge. One of the key ways the Oklahoma State Department of Health strengthens programs and improves outcomes is by empowering staff to analyze data, assess services, and present findings to professional audiences. When our employees create and deliver presentations and reports, they're not just fulfilling a professional development milestone; they are turning Oklahoma's real-world experiences into practical solutions that help communities across the state.

OSDH staff from multiple service areas actively participate in state and national learning communities by presenting their work at professional conferences, technical meetings, and partner forums. These presentations show that our workforce is not only implementing programs but also studying what works, identifying gaps, and enhancing how public health services are delivered.

Through these efforts, employees strengthen their subject-matter expertise, establish partnerships with academic and clinical organizations, and bring back best practices to Oklahoma. Equally important, they elevate Oklahoma's voice in national public health conversations.

As the agency updates systems and broadens analytic capabilities, the number and quality of employee presentations continue to increase — a clear sign of a learning organization dedicated to transparency, evidence-based decision-making, and improved health outcomes for all Oklahomans.



Service Areas Represented

Center for Health Statistics

Family Support and Prevention Service

Immunization Services

**Infectious Disease Prevention
and Response**

**Sexual Health and Harm
Reduction Services**

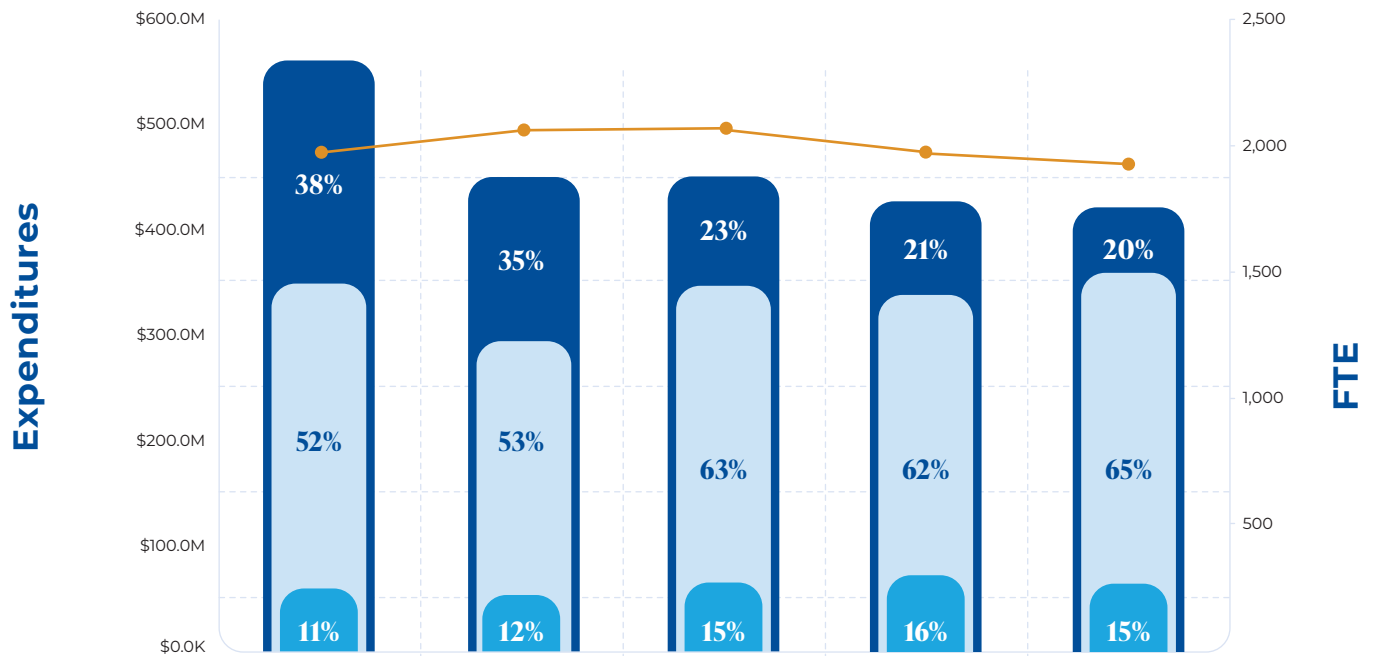
Presentations

- Race/Ethnicity Specific Life Expectancy in Oklahoma
- Impact of Travel Time and Sociodemographic Predictors on Colorectal Cancer Stage at Diagnosis among Adults Ages 45-74 Years in Oklahoma, 2018-2022
- Examining First-Time Mothers' Experiences and Satisfaction with Nursing Home Visits
- Strengthening Vaccine Confidence through Strategic Community Engagement
- Backyard Poultry Associated Salmonellosis
- Developing a Comprehensive Enteric Cluster Detection and Investigation Dashboard
- PowerBI in Action: Streamlining and Standardizing Data Quality Processes for Nationally Notifiable Diseases
- Addressing Hospital NBS Performance - Building Relationships Yielding Results
- An Evaluation of the Oklahoma Birth Defects Registry's Spina Bifida Coding Tool
- Folic Acid Distribution in Oklahoma
- Gastroschisis-Related Mortality in Oklahoma from 1994-2019
- Improving Access to Pediatric Audiology Services in Rural Oklahoma
- Oklahoma Laboratory Assessment: Algorithms, ELRs, Testing, Oh My!



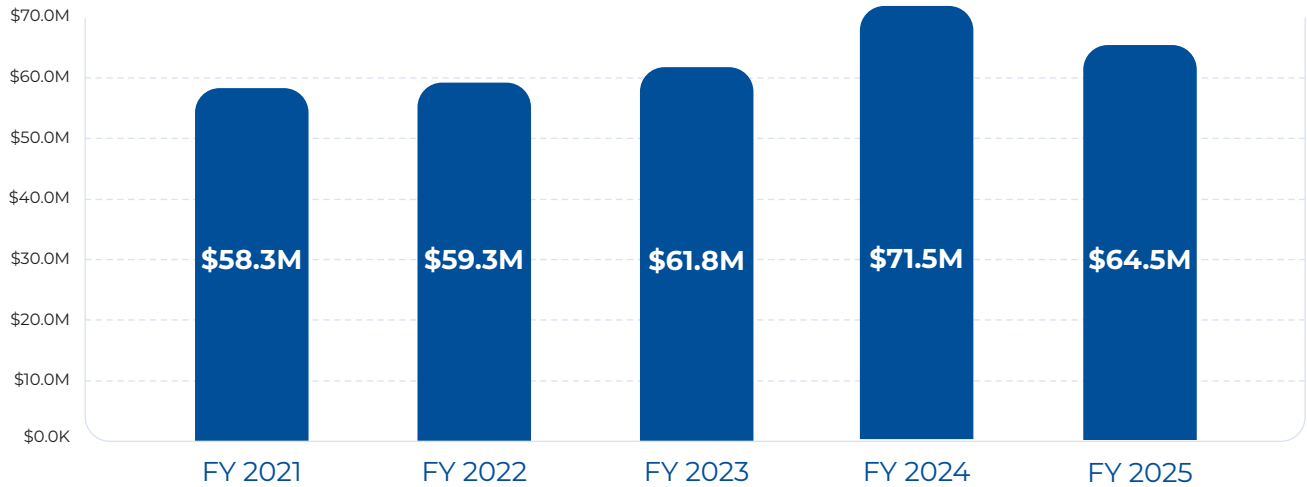
Financials

Total Actual Expenditures

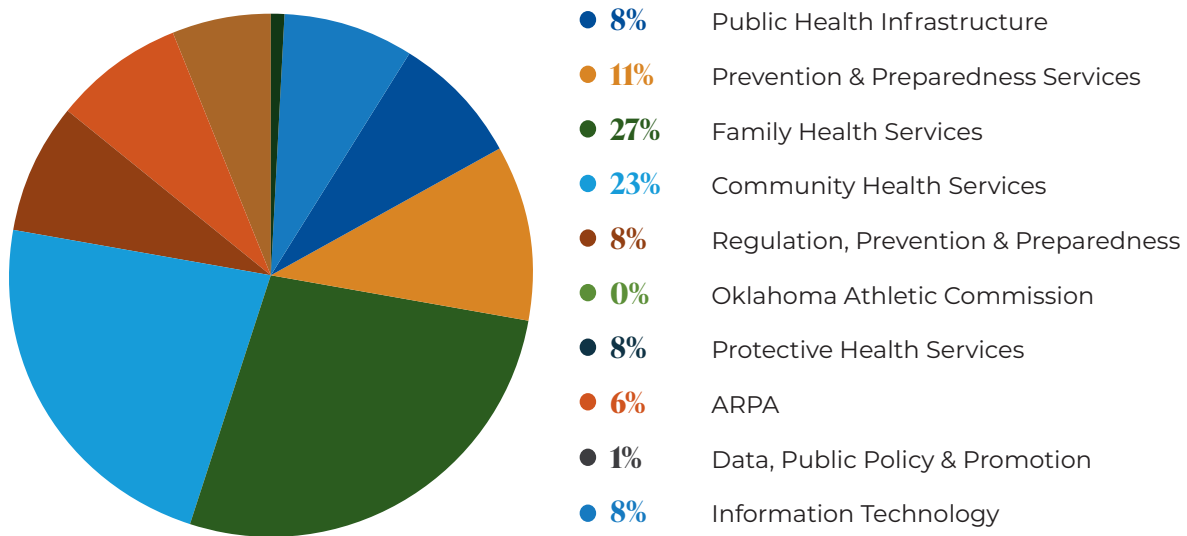


	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
● Appropriated	\$60.6M	\$54.0M	\$65.9M	\$69.8M	\$64.5M
● Revolving	\$211.5M	\$155.4M	\$103.1M	\$91.8M	\$83.5M
● Federal	\$289.1M	\$240.8M	\$281.8M	\$267.2M	\$278.9M
● Total	\$561.2M	\$450.2M	\$450.8M	\$428.8M	\$427M
● FTE	1,974	2,060	2,067	1,967	1,865

Five Year State Appropriation History



OSDH Spending by Category

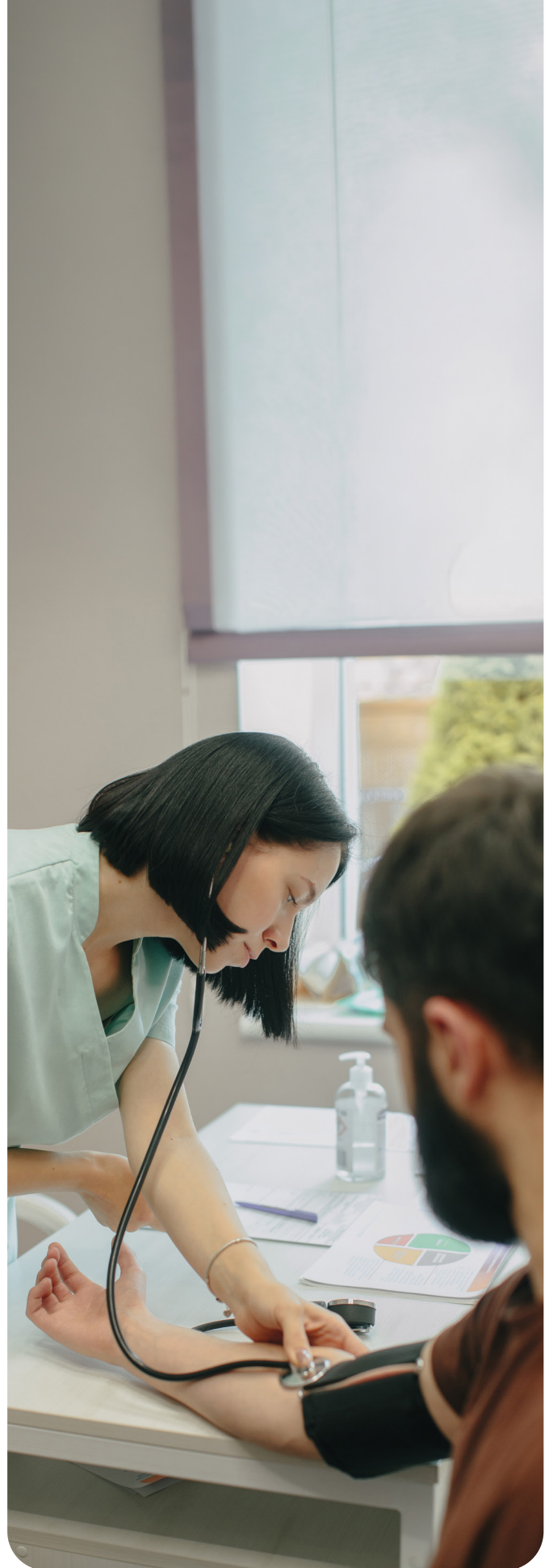


LOOKING **Ahead To 2026**

The upcoming year will be filled with rewarding experiences as our team collaborates with partners to begin implementing the Rural Health Transformation program. While OSDH serves as the lead agency, this program is a joint effort involving multiple state partners. We believe this program will transform the landscape of rural health in Oklahoma.

Guided by specific CMS criteria, the program aims to fundamentally transform rural health care delivery. The funds are allocated for innovation, not to replace revenue lost due to federal shifts. The focus is on reimagining preventive health screenings, emergency response systems, hospital sustainability, and other critical aspects of rural care. The program's roadmap is transparently outlined on the OSDH website, and we are dedicated to keeping stakeholders informed as key milestones are reached.

Additionally, our Electronic Health System will be fully implemented and client-centered tools will become available.



Board of Health List

Chris Sudduth, M.D. MPH

Mark McCroskey, BS, RT, R, MR

R. Murali Krishna, M.D.

Ronald D. Osterhout, M.S

Bruce L. Storms, M.D.

Kinion E. Whittington, D.O., FACOG

Travis Wolff, PharmD, BCACP

Jeffrey James Lim, M.D., FACP

OSDH Leadership

Keith Reed, MPH, CPH | Commissioner of Health

Mendy Spohn | Deputy Commissioner | Community Health Services

Kelli Rader | Deputy Commissioner | Quality Assurance & Regulatory

Buffy Heater | Deputy Commissioner | Strategy & Health Preparedness

Dr. Gitanjali Pai | Chief Medical Officer

Lisa Leeper | Chief Administrative Officer

Stefan Von Dollen | Chief Financial Officer

Brandie Combs | Chief of Staff

Patrick Crowe | Chief Accountability Officer

Amanda Stone | Internal Audit



MISSION

To protect and promote health, to prevent disease and injury and to cultivate conditions by which Oklahomans can thrive.

VISION


Leading Oklahoma to prosperity through health.


VALUES


Service | Respect | Collaboration | Accountability

123 Robert S. Kerr Ave
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

oklahoma.gov/health

 @healthyoklahoma

 @healthyoklahoma

 @oklahomahealth

