



# Advancing Rural Surgical Services Federal Appropriations Request

## Need for New Surgical Capacity in Rural Southwest Washington

Skyline Health strives to meet the needs of our thriving and growing rural community. Demand for many of our services, including Surgery and Outpatient Rehabilitation Services, is straining our older facilities. Growing demand places pressure on an outdated facilities design that does not allow us to safely maximize patient throughput, leading to unfortunate delays in services. This places undue financial burden upon patients, forcing them to travel for their procedures, or worse, go without essential care, diminishing their quality of life. The barrier of traveling to access care is very real in rural America.

The most common surgical procedures performed at Skyline reflect the needs and demographics of our rural and aging community: colonoscopy and endoscopy screenings, hernia repair, and gall bladder removal. Increasingly, we are seeing the need for oncologic, breast, abdominal wall, and a wide range of emergency surgeries. Making sure our community can access these services close to home improves recovery outcomes by keeping patients near to their support structures, reduces financial burdens for patients, and allows for continuity of follow-up care following surgery.

## Advancing Rural Surgical Services

The Skyline Advancing Rural Surgical Services Project will provide modern surgical support to our community, allowing patients to receive healthcare close to home, enhancing recovery and rehabilitation, and allowing Skyline the facility space to recruit future providers to meet community needs. This project is critical to meeting the healthcare needs of our rural community both today and in the future. This project will expand Surgical Services by renovating existing facility space. Once completed, patients will have greater access to surgical procedures within their community.

The project will increase Skyline's capacity to provide more services to meet the current community needs and a foundation to deliver new services to our community. A modern Surgical Center at Skyline will allow us to recruit specialists and medical staff needed for our community's healthcare to thrive.

## Project Funding and Timeline

Skyline Health requests \$3 million toward the \$6.1 million total cost for the Skyline Advancing Rural Surgical Services Project.

**The project budget consists of:**

**Skyline Health Revenues**  
\$ 301,000

**Skyline Foundation**  
\$ 300,000

**State Capital Budget**  
\$ 2,500,000

**Federal Appropriations**  
\$ 3,000,000

**TOTAL \$ 6,100,000**

If awarded federal funding, Skyline Health will be able to immediately begin the Advancing Rural Surgical Services Project. Planning and design would be completed in 2025 with construction completion in 2026. The requested funding will allow Skyline Health to move forward with the project and open the facility to patients in 2026.



## About Skyline Health

Skyline Health is a community-owned and operated Public Hospital District based in White Salmon, Wash., serving the Klickitat and Skamania County regions. It is governed by a five-person community-elected Board of Commissioners and employs 185 people, making it one of the largest employers in the County. Skyline's mission is to provide an exceptional level of health and well-being in our community.

Skyline has 8,050 unique patient visits per year, and our payer mix is 48% Medicare, 18% Medicaid, 32% private and 2% self-pay. It primarily serves the rural counties of Klickitat and Skamania with a combined population of 33,000.

Skyline serves a diverse population, with many county residents in distressed situations. Including disabilities, older people, poverty, isolation, lack of social and emotional support, food insecurity, low education levels, and Veterans. The County is significantly older than the state average, with 34% of the population aged 60 or over, compared to 24% statewide. 15.6% of the county residents are below the poverty line above the national average (13.4%) and the state average (10.8%). The median hourly wage for Klickitat County is \$25.31 compared to \$30.50 statewide. The per capita income of Klickitat County residents is \$51,973, which is 77% of the state average.

**Please contact us with any questions about this project or the federal funding request.**

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## Community Support

The following groups and individuals have written letters of support for this federal appropriations request:

### Health Partners

- Anesthesia Associates
- Association of Washington Public District Hospitals
- ER Solutions
- Klickitat County Emergency Medical Services District No. 1
- Klickitat Department of Health
- Klickitat Valley Health
- One Community Health - CEO Jennifer Griffith
- One Community Health - Medical Director Dr. Laberge
- Pacific Imaging Associates
- Skyline Health
- Skyline Health Foundation
- State of Washington Department of Health
- SW Washington Accountable Community of Health
- The Rural Collaborative

### Governmental Partners

- Bingen/White Salmon Police Department
- City of White Salmon
- Klickitat County Board of Commissioners
- Mayor of Bingen
- Mayor of White Salmon
- Mid-Columbia Economic Development District
- Washington State Representative Chris Corry
- Washington State Representative Gina Mosbrucker
- Washington State Senator Curtis King

### Community Partners

- Culture Seed
- Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce
- One Prevention Alliance
- Our Klickitat Prevention Coalition
- Rotary Club of White Salmon and Bingen

- Skamania Chamber of Commerce
- The Next Door Inc.
- Washington Gorge Action Programs
- White Salmon Valley School District
- White Salmon Valley Education Foundation

### Business Partners

- Aerovel
- Anchi Winery
- Bell Design
- Blue Room Architecture
- Crestline Construction
- Domaine Pouillon Winery
- Everybody's Brewing
- First Interstate Bank
- Innovative Composite Engineering
- Little Oak Montessori
- Optimist Printers

