



Strategic Partners

Committed to the future of rural communities.

Bringing High-Quality Care, Jobs to the Oregon Desert

Outline Of Need:

While Oregon is the ninth largest state in the country according to acreage, it ranks 27th in population. The state’s many small burgs and rural populations are spread out over a vast landscape, and residents often live and work hundreds of miles away from comprehensive health care and other essential services.

As the largest provider of alcohol and drug treatment services in eastern Oregon, the nonprofit New Directions Northwest, Inc., has been working for decades to provide high-quality care to patients from rural Oregon and beyond. Their operations comprise a cluster of modern, integrated recovery services to meet specific needs of individual patients. Because of the need in the region, as well as the level care they provide, there is generally always a waiting list for New Directions Northwest in-patient treatment services.

How Rural Development Helped:

In addition to outpatient and other services, New Directions Northwest operates three residential treatment facilities in Baker City, all constructed through the financing options of USDA Rural Development’s Community Facilities program over a number of years. These facilities include the Elkhorn Adolescent Treatment Center, which offers residential treatment services for youths ages 14 to 18 with serious alcohol and drug problems. The second facility, Baker House, provides treatment options for adults.

With the help of a \$790,000 USDA Rural Development loan, New Directions Northwest this year completed the construction of the new Recovery Village for parents with children in their care. This third facility is designed specifically for patients who



Recovery Village program manager Kelli Wright shows off one of the facility’s many amenities to ensure children receive supportive, nurturing care while living at the residential treatment center with a parent.

live at the facility with a young son or daughter while receiving treatment for up to six months and enhancing their parenting skills.

The Results:

CEO Shari Selander explains that each facility focuses on providing integrated, expanded services that include mental health and other care from an interdisciplinary group of professionals. “We are working to treat individuals holistically,” she said.

In addition to serving as an anchor institution for the overall community, New Directions Northwest has provided life-changing drug and alcohol treatment to thousands of individuals from throughout the state. “There is nothing more heart wrenching than to see individuals and families being torn apart due to addictions that have taken over their lives,” Selander says. “On the other hand, there is nothing more gratifying than to see individuals leave our residential treatment programs with confidence and new hope that they will have a successful recovery.”

Fast Facts

- Program: Community Facilities Program
- Investment: \$790,000 direct loan
- Previous Investments: \$144,244 direct loan (2004)
\$496,024 direct loan (2003)
\$675,000 direct loan (1996)
- Partners: New Directions Northwest, Inc., State of Oregon
- Impact:
 - Integrated, high-quality treatment for local residents and patients seeking comprehensive care from outside the area
 - 99 full-time jobs