

## **Orcas Island Mobile Integrated Health (MIH)**

### **Program Overview & Funding Request**

Fall/Winter 2025-2026

#### **Background**

Orcas Island faces unique health care challenges stemming from its geographic isolation, limited on-island medical resources, and reliance on off-island emergency transport for higher levels of care. When on-island medical resources are unavailable or urgent medical needs arise, patients often require costly and/or logistically complex air transport to mainland facilities. These emergency flights are not only financially burdensome for patients, insurers, and public systems, but they also pose health and safety risks associated with delayed access to appropriate care and transport limitations due to weather or availability.

At the same time, many of these emergency transports stem from preventable conditions or could be avoided through timely, coordinated, and community-based interventions. Limited access to primary and specialty care, lack of on-island care resources, inconsistent follow-up after hospital discharge, and gaps in chronic disease management contribute to a cycle of crisis-driven care rather than proactive health maintenance.

#### **Proposed Solution**

A Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) program, housed within the Orcas Island Fire & Rescue (OIFR) and supported financially and via program development support through Orcas Island Health Care District, offers a community-centered solution. By leveraging trained health care professionals—MIH services can bridge the gaps between emergency response, primary care, and social services. The program would provide in-home assessments, preventive care, chronic disease monitoring, referral to social supports, and coordinated follow-up after hospital visits or emergency calls.

#### **Anticipated Impact**

- **Reduce unnecessary emergency flight transports** through early intervention and local treatment when appropriate and available.
- **Enhance care coordination** by connecting patients with on-island and mainland providers, social services and community resources, improving continuity across care settings.
- **Improve preventative and chronic care management**, supporting better health outcomes and reducing the overall cost and strain on the health system.

Given Orcas Island's isolation, limited medical facilities, limited emergency transport options, and aging population, a Mobile Integrated Health program represents an essential step toward a more sustainable, resilient health care model that works for the most vulnerable in our community.

### **Goals in Year 1 of an Orcas Island Mobile Integrated Health Program**

#### **Phase 1: Start-up (November '25 – April '26)**

- Develop robust program infrastructure, including program policies and procedures, criteria for enrollment and disenrollment, referral pathways, the purchase and build-out of a data-reporting system, finalizing of year 1 Key Performance Indicators (KPI) metrics and plan for data collection and reporting, and more.

#### **Phase 2: Pilot Launch (May '26-December '2026)**

- Collect and analyze program data to generate an evidence-based understanding of Orcas Island's health service needs, in order to evolve the program in response to community realities.
- Reduce avoidable EMS transports and hospitalizations.
- Provide in-home medical and social support for chronic disease, post-discharge follow-up, and behavioral health.
- Expand resource access for vulnerable and mobility challenged residents.
- Strengthen care coordination and referrals across island health resources.

#### **Benefits**

- Data-driven reporting to develop a credible guide for program evolution and the identification and/or development of additional resources.
- Improved access to healthcare at home for homebound adults and other vulnerable individuals.
- Reduced strain on 911, EMS and emergency departments.
- Expanded behavioral health support through resource coordination that addresses social determinants of health.
- Stronger partnership between OIFR and OIHCD.
- Stronger ongoing cross-systems partnership between Orcas Community Resource Center, Senior Services, Island Primary Care Orcas, Compass Health, OIHCD and OIFR through their ongoing work together on the Community Health Stakeholder Advisory Group.
- Filling healthcare gaps in our rural medicine landscape.

## **Governance, Oversight & Program Advisory Bodies**

<b>Structure / Role</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Joint Oversight Committee Composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 Commissioners from Orcas Island Fire &amp; Rescue (OIFR)</li><li>• 2 Commissioners from Orcas Island Health Care District (OIHCD)</li><li>• Fire Chief (OIFR)</li><li>• Superintendent (OIHCD)</li><li>• Meets quarterly to review program finances, staffing, performance outcomes, and operational adjustments.</li><li>• Facilitated by OIHCD Community Health Project Manager</li></ul>
<b>Community Health Stakeholder Advisory Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Orcas Community Resource Center</li><li>• San Juan County Senior Services, Orcas</li><li>• Island Primary Care Orcas</li><li>• Compass Health</li><li>• Fire Chief (OIFR)</li><li>• OIFR MIH Program Staff</li><li>• Private PCPs</li><li>• Meets quarterly to review referral flow, communications, shared data collection pathways, and program adjustments to improve care coordination</li><li>• Facilitated by OIHCD Community Health Project Manager</li></ul>
<b>Reporting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quarterly reports to Joint Oversight Committee regarding progress and adjustments to Implementation timeline, spending and program outcomes.</li><li>• An annual report summarizing program outcomes, spending, and recommendations will be prepared and submitted to both the OIFR and OIHCD Boards for review.</li></ul>

## **Current Program Support Commitments**

### **OIFR Commitments**

- \$25,000 in direct funding.
- LifePack 15 Cardiac Monitor, MIH equipment, MIH response SUV, and Toughbook laptop.
- Train 1-2 EMTs to conduct MIH intake and resource coordination.

- Train all OIFR field staff in the purpose of the MIH program and when and how to refer patients into the program.
- Employ/Contract additional MIH medical staff in Phase 2, according to the availability of funds.
- Provide administrative oversight.
- Collect, collate and share program data.
- Develop a shared community engagement and communication plan with OIHCD to promote the program.

**OIHCD Commitments**

- \$76,000 in direct funding.
- Provide project management support via the OIHCD Community Health Project Manager.
- Ensure program evaluation and fiscal accountability via participation in the Joint Oversight Committee.
- Develop a shared community engagement and communication plan with OIHCD to promote the program.

**Program Budget**

**Overview**

There is significant monetary and infrastructure support for this program already established, through a partnership between the Orcas Island Health Care District and Orcas Island Fire & Rescue. To successfully launch in winter **2026**, we are seeking an additional **\$35,000–\$50,000 in support**. The final funding level will determine the number of hours our Registered Nurse can dedicate to the program. Increased investment will allow for a broader scope of Mobile Integrated Health services and greater community impact; more modest funding will support a more limited but still valuable set of services.

Current Committed Funding for Pilot Program (OIFR & OIHCD contributions): **\$136,000**  
 Funding Still Needed to Launch: **\$35,000-\$50,000**

**Budget Details**

**ORCAS ISLAND FIRE & RESCUE CONTRIBUTION**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description / Notes</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
<b>Direct Funding</b>	Local agency support	<b>\$25,000</b>

<b>LifePack 15</b>	Cardiac monitor/defibrillator (includes annual maintenance \$2,000)	<b>Included in-kind</b>
<b>MIH Equipment</b>	Field gear and supplies	<b>Included in-kind</b>
<b>SUV Vehicle</b>	Current value ~\$30,000 + annual maintenance and fuel (\$3,000)	<b>\$33,000</b>
<b>Technology</b>	Laptop, cellphone, communication equipment	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	–	<b>\$60,000</b>

**ORCAS ISLAND HEALTH CARE DISTRICT CONTRIBUTION**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	Program Development Consultant	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>EMT MIH Hourly</b>	6–12 hrs/week @ ~\$28/hour; March '26-Dec '26	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>Training – EMT and/or other staff</b>	Credentialing, continuing education, and MIH-specific training	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Program Software</b>	MIH data platform, configuration, and support (\$14k subsequent years)	<b>\$21,000</b>
<b>Medical Supplies &amp; Consumables</b>	Field kits, PPE, and replenishable materials	<b>\$8,000</b>
<b>Administration &amp; Reporting</b>	Program coordination, data management, and evaluation support	<b>\$7,000</b>
<b>Contingency (≈5% of unmet budgetary needs &amp; OIFR contribution)</b>	Unanticipated expenses or cost adjustments	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	—	<b>\$76,000</b>

**FUNDING GAP**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
<b>Contract/On-Call</b>	Program Pilot Lead– May-December contract (Registered Nurse \$60 per hour; 15-23 hrs/week)	<b>\$30,000-\$45,000</b>
<b>Training Materials</b>	Manuals, educational resources, and certification materials	<b>\$5,000</b>

**Total**

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**\$35,000-\$50,000**