

Orcas Island Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Program

Program Overview & Funding Request – Fall/Winter 2025–2026

Background

Orcas Island faces unique health challenges due to its geographic isolation, limited local medical resources, and reliance on costly and complex off-island emergency transports. Many of these emergency flights could be prevented through timely, community-based care coordination and follow-up. The Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) program addresses these gaps by delivering proactive, in-home care that keeps residents healthier and reduces emergency dependence.

Proposed Solution

The MIH program, a partnership between Orcas Island Fire & Rescue (OIFR) and the Orcas Island Health Care District (OIHCD), will integrate emergency response, primary care, and social services. A Registered Nurse (RN) and trained EMTs will provide home-based assessments, preventive care, chronic disease monitoring, post-discharge follow-up, and referrals to social supports.

Year 1 Goals (2025–2026)

Phase 1: Start-up (Nov '25–Apr '26) – Develop policies, referral pathways, data systems, and key performance metrics.

Phase 2: Pilot Launch (May–Dec '26) – Deliver in-home medical and social support; reduce avoidable EMS transports; improve chronic disease and behavioral health management.

Anticipated Benefits

- Reduced emergency transports and hospitalizations.
- Improved care coordination across on- and off-island providers.
- Expanded access for homebound and vulnerable residents.
- Strengthened partnerships among OIFR, OIHCD, and local health and social service organizations.

Program Funding Summary

Funding Source	Contribution
OIFR (cash + in-kind)	\$60,000
OIHCD (cash)	\$76,000
Total Committed Funding	\$136,000
Additional Funding Needed to Launch (Winter 2026)	\$35,000–\$50,000

The final funding level will determine the number of hours our Registered Nurse can dedicate to the program. A larger investment allows for broader MIH services and deeper community impact, while a smaller contribution still enables vital, foundational care for high-need residents.

Your contribution will help Orcas Island build a sustainable, locally grounded health model—improving outcomes, reducing costs, and caring for our most vulnerable neighbors.