

# Federal Grant Application Request

## Oregon Health Authority

### Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Grant

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**Analyst:** Linda Ames

**Request:** Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of up to \$2 million in any given year for a maximum of \$8 million over five years, to expand services for screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment services for substance misuse and substance use disorders.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Analysis:** The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is requesting approval from the Joint Committee on Ways and Means to apply for the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Grant funding can be up to \$2 million in any given year for a maximum of \$8 million over five years. No state matching funds are required for the grant, nor is there a requirement for maintenance of effort.

SBIRT is an evidence-based approach to identify patients who use alcohol and other drugs at risky levels. It is unique in that it screens for all types of substance use, not just dependencies. Through a set of questions between the provider and the patient, this process provides the information necessary to determine the appropriate level of intervention or treatment.

OHA will create partnerships with primary care clinics for the underserved, including county clinics, federally qualified health centers, and rural health centers, to implement regular screening across all of the clinic's population. OHSU's Department of Family Medicine currently uses SBIRT in its residency training, and will create training modules for all clinic personnel. AMH will partner with the Office of Policy and Health Research, since this grant aligns with goals to support patient-centered primary care home efforts. The grant will also support work with some of Oregon's behavioral health experts to improve partnerships and coordination between primary care systems and specialty substance use disorder and mental health care systems.

The use of SBIRT is included as one of the 17 incentive measures for CCOs. Utilization rates of SBIRT are currently low, and this grant is intended to provide the training and technical support to increase the use of this successful model.

The agency expects to need one new limited duration position to provide state oversight, coordination with other OHA divisions and community partners, and to assist the spread of the concept to other delivery system reform efforts. The grant application is due on April 29, 2013. If approved, funding would begin September 2013 and end September 2018. If necessary, additional expenditure limitation and position authority could be included in the OHA 2013-15 budget, or be added later in the biennium.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.



Office of the Director

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Oregon  
**Health**  
Authority

500 Summer Street NE E-20  
Salem, OR 97301  
Voice: 503-947-2340  
Fax: 503-947-2341  
Website: [www.Oregon.Gov/OHA](http://www.Oregon.Gov/OHA)

March 28, 2013

The Honorable Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Peter Buckley, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court St, NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Request to Apply Letter – Cooperative Agreement – Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) (OHA-AMH-13-04)

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

### **NATURE OF THE REQUEST**

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Addictions and Mental Health Division (AMH), in partnership with Oregon Health Policy and Research (OHPR), requests permission to apply for the Cooperative Agreement for Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) federal grant funds from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). The department requests permission to apply for an \$8 million award (up to \$2 million annually), beginning September 2013 and ending September 29, 2018.

### **AGENCY ACTION**

The intent of this opportunity is to expand services for screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment services for adults in primary care and community health settings, for substance misuse and substance use disorders. The funding is available through the Department of Health and Human Services, SAMHSA. The department was notified of this grant opportunity on February 28, 2013, and the application is due on April 29, 2013. This grant requires no state matching funds and there is no federal requirement for maintenance of effort.

Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) is an evidence-based approach to identifying patients who use alcohol and other drugs at risky levels, with the goal of reducing and

preventing related health consequences, disease, accidents and injuries. SBIRT is unique in that it screens for all types of substance use, not just dependencies. Through a set of questions between the provider and the patient, the SBIRT process provides information and assistance tailored to the individual patient and his or her needs.

Through this opportunity, the OHA will:

- Create partnerships with primary care clinics for the underserved (County Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and Rural Health Centers (RHCs) to implement regular screening across all of the clinics' population for substance misuse and assist in regular coaching for addressing the needs of the patients in the clinics.
- Partner with OHSU's Dept of Family Medicine, who are using SBIRT in its residency trainings, to create training modules for all clinic personnel in order to ensure mastery of the evidence-based SBIRT model.
- Work with some of Oregon's behavioral health experts to improve integrative partnerships between participating primary care systems and specialty substance use disorder and mental health care systems to effectively serve more severely dependent patients.

AMH will partner with OHPR to successfully implement this grant opportunity, as it aligns with goals to support patient-centered primary care home efforts, an underlying critical aspect of health system transformation. As the state faces its severe budget crisis, enhancing care coordination and integration between physical and behavioral health is essential. Unaddressed substance abuse or misuse can lead to increased cost and utilization of healthcare services and put safety at risk. This project will provide needed assistance to community primary care clinics to help them address the needs of the vulnerable population they serve. One limited duration FTE, an Operations and Policy Analyst 4 will be hired and funded using grant resources if the department is successful in securing this grant to provide state oversight and coordination with other OHA divisions, community partners and to assist spread of the concept to other delivery system reform efforts.

This project aligns with the OHA mission to improve population health, improve the individual's experience of care and reduce per capita costs. SBIRT has been shown to assist clinicians to provide cost effective care that works to integrate behavioral health into the primary care setting, a key element of the patient-centered primary care home.

The primary goal of SBIRT is not just to identify alcohol- or other drug-dependent individuals, but enhance patient care, improved treatment outcomes and increased provider and patient satisfaction. SBIRT is also a means of meeting the public health goal of reducing the harms and societal costs associated with risky use. States implementing SBIRT have realized these goals and have also realized cost-offsets to physical healthcare. The anticipated result of proceeding with this

application is expanded use of this screening and treatment model across Oregon's primary care providers as the training tools and experience of this project are shared across OHA programs and other delivery systems in Oregon.

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Addictions and Mental Health Division requests authority to accept the Cooperative Agreement for Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) federal grant funds from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) if the state's application is successful.

### **LEGISLATION AFFECTED**

None.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly Ballas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kelly" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Ballas".

Kelly Ballas  
Chief Financial Officer

CC: Linda Ames, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Kate Nass, Department of Administrative Services  
Blake Johnson, Department of Administrative Services  
Dustin Ball, Department of Administrative Services