

Federal Grant Application Request

Department of Human Services

Model Approaches to Statewide Legal Assistance Systems

Analyst: Laurie Byerly

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of up to \$100,000 per year for three years, to help target limited legal resources to those seniors most in need.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Analysis: The Administration for Community Living, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, plans to award seven grants to support state efforts to develop and maintain effective, high-quality, and high-impact legal services targeted at older adults in the greatest need. The Department of Human Services (DHS) is requesting permission to apply for the grant in the full amount of \$100,000 per year for three years; the grant application is due May 28, 2013.

If awarded, work under the grant would likely begin by August 1, 2013. Grantees are required to provide at least 25% of the project's total cost. Either cash or in-kind contributions can be used to meet that share; applicants may also request a waiver of the match requirement. While one goal of the grant is to build and maintain a model legal service delivery system, there is no requirement for Oregon fund specific grant activities after the end of the project period.

DHS is still refining project details and budget, but over the first year would focus primarily on assessment and planning activities. These include identifying senior populations most in need of legal services, developing a plan to improve outreach to those seniors, and providing some level of direct legal services. During year two and year three, DHS would continue these efforts and work to better integrate legal services with other senior services. Intake specialists and other workers or volunteers would be trained to help them spot legal issues as they interact with seniors.

To carry out the grant, DHS would potentially partner with several organizations, including Legal Aid Services of Oregon, the Oregon Law Center, the Center for Non-Profit Legal Services, the Aging and Disability Resource Connection, and the Area Agencies on Aging. The agency's tentative plan is to work with these entities to find in-kind contributions to meet matching requirements; applying for the match waiver is also an option. In addition, the Department expects to work with its legal services partners to find the specific outreach and law expertise needed to support the project.

If the grant is awarded and additional expenditure limitation is necessary, a budget adjustment can be made in the 2014 Legislative Session or during the interim.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.

Motion: I move that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means approve the Department of Human Services' submission of a federal grant application to the Department of Health and Human Services to help target limited legal resources to those seniors most in need.



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Human Services

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May 8, 2013



The Honorable Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Peter Buckley, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178, State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

RE: Request to apply – Competitive Grant, Model Approaches to Statewide Legal Assistance Systems (Administration for Community Living Grant, #HHS-2013-ACLO-AOA-SL-0050)

Dear Co-Chairs:

Nature of the Request

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Aging and People with Disabilities requests permission to apply for the Model Approaches to Statewide Legal Assistance Systems grant for federal funds up to \$100,000 a year for 3-years, beginning 9/30/2013 and ending 9/30/2016, for a total of up to \$300,000.

The intent of the grant is to enhance the Older Americans Act's requirement for high-quality, high-impact, statewide legal service delivery systems by improving targeting of limited legal resources to those most in social or economic need and by integrating the legal service delivery with the broad aging service network. The funding is available through Administration for Community Living. The request for proposals was received on 4/10/2013, and the application is due on 5/28/2013. This grant funding requires state matching funds in the amount of \$33,333 with a possibility of a waiver for the matching funds. There is not a federal requirement for maintenance of effort.

Agency Action

The federal Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, mandates legal assistance as one of the Act's support services that assist older adults in social or economic

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need maintain or achieve independence and dignity. As envisioned in the Act, the legal assistance provided by the Act is part of the network of aging services delivered at the local level by Area Agencies on Aging – for legal assistance, legal providers are contracted to deliver these local services. As a support service with greater need than resources available, legal assistance delivery systems for older Americans need to explore options for a more integrated, coordinated system that more efficiently and effectively uses the limited funding that is available. Additionally, in Oregon (as was the case in other states that have previously received this grant) a need exists to assess the targeting of available resources to be efficient and effective in delivering limited legal assistance.

The “Model Approaches” grant is designed to allow states to assess the needs and capacity of existing legal assistance for seniors and to create a state-specific “model approach” to deliver legal assistance services more effectively to those most in need. The first year of the grant allows for assessment of current needs and capacity with general planning based on those assessments. The second and third years, depending on the planning, will look to increase outreach and direct legal assistance to populations and/or regions currently being underserved. Partners and possible sub-grantees on this project will include Legal Aid Services of Oregon, the Oregon Law Center, the Center for Non Profit Legal Services, ADRC of Oregon and Area Agencies on Aging.

Funds will be used to create 1-3 positions. Positions to be filled are expected to be hired by our legal services partners through contracts. Probably positions will include an outreach worker and an attorney or two to provide direct services in coordination with the outreach worker’s efforts. These positions will be contracted.

There is no expectation that the state will continue to fund these activities or positions at the end of the grant period.

The DHS mission is to help people and communities achieve optimum physical, mental and social well-being through partnerships, prevention and access to quality, affordable health care. The grant intends to better achieve independence, dignity and safety for Oregonians by improving access to legal services for those most in need of preserving their legal rights and by enhancing integration of legal services into aging network of services.

Action Requested

The Department of Human Services (DHS), Aging and People with Disabilities requests authority to accept a Model Approaches for Statewide Legal Assistance Systems grant from Administration for Community Living if the state's application is successful.

Legislation Affected

None

For additional information, please call Fred Steele at 503-945-6325 or fred.b.steele@state.or.us

Sincerely,



Eric Luther Moore
DHS Chief Financial Officer

cc: Laurie Byerly
Blake Johnson
Kate Nass
George Naughton
Ken Rocco