

Federal Grant Application Request

Oregon Health Authority

Connecting Kids to Coverage Outreach and Enrollment Grant

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 \$500,000 per year for two years, to provide outreach and enrollment assistance to increase enrollment of eligible children in health care coverage.

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 Connecting Kids to Coverage Outreach and Enrollment Grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Grant funding is expected to be up to \$500,000 per year for two years. No state matching funds are required for the grant. Grant funding cannot be used to substitute for state funding for these activities.

The Office of Healthy Kids currently performs outreach across the state through partnerships with community organizations, schools, providers, and other organizations, to assist families in enrolling in the Healthy Kids program. This grant will help to expand that work in two ways. First, it will provide greater capacity to train health care providers and front-line staff at clinics to help them enroll eligible families. Second, besides focusing on enrolling children in Healthy Kids, it will focus on outreach efforts to ensure that families understand the new application and enrollment system that will be in place for the 2014 expansion under the Affordable Care Act.

The Oregon Health Authority will partner with the Oregon Primary Care Association, the Oregon School Based Health Care Network, and the Office of Rural Health. These organizations have statewide relationships to primary care facilities, Federally Qualified Health Centers, school clinics, and rural clinics. The grant will enable these organizations to provide trainings in application assistance and awareness of the new enrollment system.

No new positions will be needed in the agency. The grant will fund one training coordinator/trainer position at the Oregon School Based Health Care Network, one at the Office of Rural Health, and two at the Oregon Primary Care Association.

The grant application is due on February 21, 2013. If approved, funding would begin on June 1, 2013 and end May 31, 2015. If necessary, additional expenditure limitation could be included in the OHA 2013-15 budget, or added later in the 2013-15 biennium.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.



Office of the Director

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

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February 11, 2013

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

Re: Request to Apply – Competitive Grant – Connecting Kids to Coverage Outreach and Enrollment grants, CHIPRA Cycle III (OHA-DMAP-13-01)

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Medical Assistance Programs (MAP) Office of Client and Community Services requests permission to apply for federal funds for the Connecting Kids to Coverage Outreach and Enrollment grant funds up to \$500,000 a year for 2 years, beginning June 1, 2013 and ending May 31, 2015, for a total of up to \$1,000,000.

The intent of the grant is to fund outreach strategies designed to increase enrollment of eligible children in Medicaid and the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP), as well as funding activities designed to help families understand new application procedures and health coverage opportunities, including Medicaid, CHIP, and insurance affordability programs under the ACA. The funding is available through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The request for proposals was received on January 7, 2013, and the application is due on February 21, 2013. This grant funding requires no state matching funds. Regarding maintenance of effort, the request for proposals requires that in a state awarded a grant, the state funds expended for outreach and enrollment activities during the grant project period shall not be less than the level of such funds expended in the federal fiscal year proceeding the first fiscal year for which the grant is awarded.

Agency Action

The Office of Healthy Kids, within the Office of Client and Community Services, currently performs outreach across the state through partnerships with community organizations, schools, providers, and other organizations, to assist families in enrolling in the Healthy Kids program. Community partners are trained in application assistance, and grants are provided to community organizations to do local and targeted outreach for the program. However, greater capacity is needed in training health care providers, front-line staff at clinics who meet uninsured and underinsured Oregonians on a daily basis.

This grant opportunity offers funding for training programs to equip communities to help families understand the new application and enrollment system, and to deliver effective assistance to families with children eligible for Medicaid and CHIP. OHA will partner with the Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA), the Oregon School Based Health Care Network (OSBHCN), and the Office of Rural Health (ORH), organizations with statewide relationships to primary care facilities, Federally Qualified Health Centers, school clinics, rural clinics and more. Training coordinators will be able to reach clinics and facilities across the state through these established networks, providing trainings in application assistance and awareness of the new enrollment system. OHA's existing collaboration with Cover Oregon will inform the development of these trainings, as will the established experience of OPCA in training curriculum and delivery. While intended to reach children and teens, this outreach will target families as a whole, introducing coverage options for both children and adults. Research shows that the children of parents who get enrolled in health insurance are more likely to get enrolled and receive necessary preventative care and other health services themselves.

Funds will be used to create 4.2 positions. There will be one training coordinator / trainer at OSBHCN, one at ORH, and two at OPCA. There will be a .2 position at OHA to manage the budget and accountability aspects of the grant. These positions will be limited duration positions, and the .2 at OHA will be part of a position funded through the coming partnership with Cover Oregon. No new positions will be requested at OHA.

After the grant period ends, the collaborators in this grant will continue to provide support through their established networks to the facilities receiving training through the CHIPRA Cycle III grant funding. Lead trainers will be identified in facilities where appropriate, to provide ongoing onsite support and as a reinforced link from the grant organizations to the provider locations. A best practices manual will be developed as part of the grant activities, and will be an ongoing resource to these sites and facilities as well.

The OHA mission is to help people and communities achieve optimum physical, mental and social well-being through partnerships, prevention and access to quality health coverage and care. This grant offers an opportunity to reach more uninsured families and provide them with information and assistance in obtaining health coverage, by training staff through established networks and in facilities where families access care.

Action Requested

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), MAP, Client and Community Services requests permission to apply for federal funds for the Connecting Kids to Coverage Outreach and Enrollment grant and to accept the Connecting Kids to Coverage Outreach and Enrollment grant from CMS if the state's application is successful.

Legislation Affected

None.

For additional information, please call Karen House at 503-945-6254.

Sincerely,



Kelly Ballas
Chief Financial Officer

CC: Linda Ames, Legislative Fiscal Office
Kate Nass, Department of Administrative Services-Chief Financial Office
Dustin Ball, Department of Administrative Services-Chief Financial Office