

GRANT REQUEST PONY

Department of Human Services
Model Approaches to Statewide Legal Assistance Systems

(Reported out of Subcommittee on 5/15/2013)

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means 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 direct scarce legal resources to the neediest seniors.

In the first year, grant funds would be first be used to identify senior populations most in need of legal services and develop a plan to improve outreach to those seniors. During year two and year three, the Department of Human Services would continue these efforts and work to better integrate legal services with other senior services.

Potential grant partners include several non-profit legal aid and senior organizations, with whom the agency will also work to find in-kind contributions to meet the grant's 25% match requirement.

The grant application is due May 28, 2013. 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 Human Services Subcommittee recommends approval of the request.

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.