

Federal Grant Application Request

Oregon Health Authority

Improve Minority Health

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 \$150,000 per year for two years, to improve minority health.

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 State Partnership Grant Program to Improve Minority Health from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Grant funding is expected to be up to \$150,000 per year for two years. No state matching funds are required for the grant, nor is there a requirement for maintenance of effort.

This grant is intended to address significant health disparities affecting minorities. OHA's Office of Equity and Inclusion will support the agency's Transformation Center to strengthen Oregon's public health and health care systems to eliminate inequities. Specifically, the agency will focus on the integration and adoption of National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care (CLAS) within Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs). The first year will include development of training modules for CLAS standards, and delivery of training for a cohort of participants from CCOs and community organizations. The curriculum will focus on increasing knowledge and awareness of issues such as cultural backgrounds of populations served, effective communication across cultures, culturally specific approaches to health care, data collection sensitivity, and language access and health literacy. Second year funding will provide grants to participating organizations to adopt and implement the CLAS standards within their organizations.

The agency will not need new staff to manage the work of this grant. The grant application is due on May 28, 2013. If approved, funding would begin on August 1, 2013 and end July 31, 2015. If necessary, additional expenditure limitation could be added later in the biennium.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.

Motion: I move that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means approve the Oregon Health Authority's submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to improve minority health.

May 21, 2013

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

Re: Request to Apply Letter – Competitive Grant – State Partnership Grant
Program to Improve Minority Health (OHA-OEI-13-11)

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Office of Equity and Inclusion requests permission to apply for the State Partnership Grant Program to Improve Minority Health for federal funds up to \$150,000 a year for 2 years, beginning 08/01/2013 and ending 07/31/2015, for a total of up to \$300,000.

The intent of the grant is to address significant health disparities impacting minorities through the utilization of partnerships between the Office of Minority Health and the state and territorial health departments. The funding is available through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The request for proposals was received on 05/15/2013 and the application is due on 05/28/2013. This grant funding requires no state matching funds. There is not a federal requirement for maintenance of effort.

Agency Action

The purpose of this grant is to support development and implementation of Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Service (CLAS) standards within the health system that will facilitate the improvement of minority health and the elimination of health disparities among people who have faced greater inequities in health outcomes and access to health care due to their race, ethnic group,

socioeconomic status, gender, mental health status, physical disability, sexual orientation, or geographic location. Therefore, by working across community-based organizations and Oregon's 15 new Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), we propose to develop and implement a project focusing on the integration and adoption of Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Service (CLAS) standards within CCOs.

The overarching goal of the project is to strengthen and build capacity of Oregon's public health and health care systems to eliminate inequities and enhance equitable health outcomes by:

- Providing comprehensive training, coaching, mentorship and consulting on CLAS standards and its implementation;
- Developing collaborative approaches and partnerships to promote CLAS standards across Oregon's health systems.
- Inspiring leaders to act individually and collectively as proactive change agents to address significant challenges and barriers to achieving optimal health outcomes for all Oregonians.

Funds will not be used to create any new positions. Current staff will manage the work of this grant.

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

The OHA 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. In its Action Plan for Health, OHA includes health equity as a fundamental strategy to achieve Oregon's Triple Aim of better health, better care and lower costs. Through this project on Regional Equity Coalitions (RECs), OHA's Office of Equity and Inclusion will support the Transformation Center in advancing policies that promote health equity and address social determinants of health. To this end, this capacity-building project will provide the tools, skills and knowledge to the CCOs to achieve optimum health outcomes for historically underserved communities.

The Honorable Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Peter Buckley, Co-Chair
The Honorable Dennis Richardson, Co-Chair
05/21/2013
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Action Requested

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Office of Equity and Inclusion requests permission to apply for a State Partnership Grant Program to Improve Minority Health grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health.

Legislation Affected

None

For additional information, please call Carol Cheney at 971-673-2960.

Sincerely,



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