

Federal Grant Application Request

Department of Human Services

Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers

Analyst: Kim To

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant to the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging, in the amount of approximately \$212,620 for one year, to provide outreach to older Americans with limited income regarding their eligibility for programs that would help with Medicare premiums, and prescription drug benefits costs.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Analysis: The Department of Human Services is requesting approval from the Joint Committee on Ways and Means to apply for the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging. The grant is estimated to total \$212,620 for one year. No state matching funds are required for the grant, nor is there a requirement for maintenance of effort.

Many older Americans are eligible for, but not receiving federal and state benefits. The grant funding will go to Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), and Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) that are also Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) programs. The Department of Human Services will collaborate with these agencies to reach older individuals with the greatest economic need, and to enroll these individuals in programs for which they are qualified. These programs include:

- Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) which helps individuals with limited income and resources with the cost of their Medicare prescription drugs.
- Medicare Savings Program (MSP) which helps eligible individuals with Medicare costs such as Medicare Part B premiums.
- Wellness and disease prevention benefits available under Medicare.

No new staff will be needed to implement the activities of the grant.

The grant application is due on June 20, 2013. If approved, the funding would begin September 30, 2013 and end September 30, 2014. If necessary, the additional expenditure limitation 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.

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 support efforts to provide outreach to older Americans with limited income regarding their eligibility for assistance with Medicare premiums and prescription drug benefit costs.



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Human Services

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June 10, 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 – Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act: MSP, LIS & Prescription Drug Enrollment Assistance through the Aging Network, Aging and Disability Resource Centers and State Health Insurance Assistance Program (Administration for Community Living Grant & Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, #HHS-2013-ACL-AOA-MI-0051)

Dear Co-Chairs:

Nature of the Request

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) and the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance program request authority to jointly apply for the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) grant through the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The grant funds are being distributed to states based on a formula, by which Oregon is estimated to receive \$212,620 in federal funds for a 12 month period, beginning 9/30/2013 and ending 9/30/2014. The grant requires no state matching funds and requires no additional state staff.

Agency Action

The grant will be used to provide outreach to individuals who may be eligible for the Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) and/or the Medicare Savings Program (MSP). The LIS helps individuals with limited income and resources with the costs of their Medicare prescription drug benefit. The MSP helps individuals with limited income and resources with their other Medicare costs, such as Medicare Part B premiums. The grant will also support outreach to inform beneficiaries of the wellness and disease prevention benefits available under Medicare. Coordinating with DCBS' SHIBA program, the DHS APD will be the lead agency responsible for administering the grant requirements and reporting.

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"

Recipients of the funds will be Area Agencies on Aging who are also SHIBA sponsors and designated Aging and Disability Resource Centers. This existing network is well positioned to carry out the activities of this grant because they have daily contact with the target population in the normal course of their service delivery. Activities will include targeted outreach to individuals using existing data sources as well as broad community outreach. The success of the project will be measured on meeting specific goals related to the number of completed applications for the LIS and MSP programs. There is no expectation that the state will continue to fund these activities 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 furthers this mission by assisting eligible Oregonians to access financial help with healthcare costs and inform them of benefits that promote wellness.

Action Requested

The Department of Human Services (DHS), Aging and People with Disabilities requests authority to accept a Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) grant from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), if the state's application is successful.

Legislation Affected

None

For additional information, please call Elaine Young at 503-373-1726 or Elaine.Young@state.or.us.

Sincerely,

Eric Luther Moore
DHS Chief Financial Officer

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