

# Federal Grant Application Request

## Oregon Health Authority

### Home Visiting Program

---

**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 \$7,200,000 per year for two years, to implement home visiting programs.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request, with instruction.

**Analysis:** The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is requesting approval from the Joint Committee on Ways and Means to apply for the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program Expansion grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Grant funding is expected to be up to \$7.2 million per year for two years, although the agency would have a three year period to spend the funds. No state matching funds are required for the grant, nor is there a requirement for maintenance of effort.

As part of the Affordable Care Act, significant funds were allocated to the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting grant program. This is seen as a crucial part of the national effort to build high quality, comprehensive early childhood systems, to improve health and development outcomes. This is the third grant for which the agency has applied. In 2010 they were awarded a five-year grant for a total of \$7 million, and in 2011 were awarded a two-year grant for a total of \$6.6 million. If they are awarded this grant, federal funding totals \$28 million over a six year period.

The grant will focus on expanding the numbers of families served in the three evidence-based programs involved – Early Head Start, Healthy Start-Healthy Families Oregon, and Nurse-Family Partnership. The current grant funding will allow the programs to serve about 285 families in 8 counties. This additional grant would allow the programs to expand into 5 additional counties, and serve an additional 600 families. Although the specific grant proposal is still under development, the agency estimates that about 2/3 of the grant funding would be spent on this expansion.

The grant will also focus on development of the system, by investing in workforce development; community systems development, such as integration with the Early Learning Hubs and Coordinated Care Organizations; data system expansion; and evaluation.

The agency will need seven new limited duration positions for grant management and coordination, to develop and coordinate the workforce development initiatives, and to provide training and data analysis.

The grant application is due on July 1, 2013. If approved, funding would begin on September 1, 2013 and end August 31, 2015. If necessary, additional expenditure limitation and position authority can be added later in the biennium.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request, with instruction to the agency to

report back, if they are awarded the grant, to the interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means or the Emergency Board by January, 2014 on home visiting programs. The report should include information on current programs, both state and federally funded, and accomplishments, as well as future plans. It should also describe how the programs are integrated with the Early Learning System and Coordinated Care Organizations. Finally, the report should include preliminary plans and options for these programs when the federal funding ends.

**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 implement home visiting programs, and ask the agency, if successful, to report by January 2014.**

June 11, 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 Letter – Competitive Grant – Affordable Care Act–  
Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program Expansion  
Grant (OHA-PH-13-12)

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

**Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Public Health Division (PHD) requests permission to apply for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program Expansion Grant for federal funds of up to \$14,400,000 for 36 months beginning September 1, 2013, and ending August 31, 2016.

The funding is available through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) and the Administration for Children & Families (ACF). The request for applications was received on June 3, 2013, and the grant application is due on July 1, 2013. This grant requires no state matching funds.

**Agency Action**

This funding opportunity is the third of three consecutive federal funding opportunities to help states and local communities implement proven evidence-based home visiting models based on a comprehensive assessment of individual state's needs. The overall goal is to assure effective coordination and delivery of critical health, development, early learning, child abuse and neglect prevention,

and family support services to children and families through home visiting programs. Grant funds provide the needed assistance for Oregon to design and implement a coordinated system of early childhood home visiting that has the capacity to provide high-quality services based upon proven, evidence-based methods and integrated into the Early Learning System. This grant opportunity is designed to:

- Strengthen and improve the programs and activities carried out under the Maternal and Child Health Title V Block Grant;
- Improve coordination of services for at-risk communities; and,
- Identify and provide comprehensive services to improve outcomes for families who reside in at-risk communities.

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to build on the work of the prior grants to expand the scale and scope of the federally identified evidence-based home visiting programs, continue development of Oregon's statewide home visiting system, and continue research that will contribute to the national knowledge base of effective home visiting systems.

The State Home Visiting Steering Committee (HVSC) has been guiding this work and will continue to provide grant and home visiting system development oversight. The HVSC members represent the OHA Public Health Division, Addictions and Mental Health Division and the Director's office; The Early Learning Council, the Department of Education, Department of Human Services, the Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs, The Ford Family Foundation, the Child Care Division, and family representatives. Local partners have been integrally involved and will continue to play a key role in this grant.

Grant funds will resource the expanded numbers of families served by the Early Head Start, Healthy Start-Healthy Families Oregon, and Nurse-Family Partnership evidence-based home visiting models in 13 at-risk counties: Clatsop, Jackson, Jefferson, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, Multnomah, Tillamook, Umatilla, and Yamhill. The Home Visiting Needs Assessment identified these counties as the most at-risk based on the federal criteria of at-risk *and* with the highest rates of disparities. Funds will also provide resources for the continued expansion of the home visiting system including: workforce development (home visitor core competencies standards, parent leader

development, and infant mental health credentialing); community systems development (integration with the Early Learning Hubs and Coordinated Care Organizations); data system expansion across the state; and evaluation of the effectiveness of the home visiting system for families. All of these efforts will be closely aligned with both the early learning and healthcare transformation initiatives. The ultimate goal is to fully integrate the home visiting system in the community to serve families in both systems.

Funds will also be used to support 7 new FTE limited duration positions in OHA's Maternal and Child Health Section:

- Home Visiting Unit Manager (Principle Executive Manager D): Oversee and manage the grants, grant activities and staff.
- Workforce Development Specialist (Operations and Policy Analyst 3): Develop and coordinate the workforce development initiatives such as the home visiting core competency certification and infant mental health credentialing.
- Parent Leadership Development Specialist (Operations and Policy Analyst 3): Develop and coordinate the parent leadership initiative.
- Training Coordinator (Health Educator 2): Provide training coordination for all educational and training activities.
- Data System Trainer (Health Educator 2): Conduct training for users of the data system.
- Research Analyst (Research Analyst 4): Conduct data analysis on the systems evaluation.
- Informatics Specialist (Operations and Policy Analyst 2): Provide informatics support for the data system rollout.

This funding opportunity does not require match or maintenance of effort by the state, and there is no expectation the state will fund these activities or the positions after the end of the grant period.

This grant furthers the OHA mission to assist Oregonians to become healthy and safe by providing the more pregnant women, children, and families with evidence-based home visiting in a system that is coordinated, comprehensive, culturally specific, and aligned and integrated with the early learning and healthcare systems.

**Action Requested**

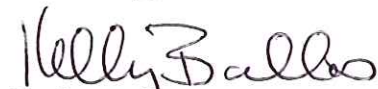
The OHA Public Health Division requests permission to apply for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program Expansion Grant for federal funds of up to \$14,400,000 for thirty-six months beginning September 1, 2013, and ending August 31, 2016.

**Legislation Affected**

None.

For additional information, please call Jae Douglas, Administrator for the Center for Prevention and Health Promotion at (971) 673-1139.

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