

GRANT REQUEST PONY

**Oregon Health Authority
Home Visiting Program**

(Reported out of Subcommittee on 6/17/13)

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends approval of 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.

As part of the Affordable Care Act, significant funds were allocated to the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting grant program. If this grant is successful, total federal funding for this program will be \$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. About 2/3 of the funding is expected to be used for this purpose. The grant will also focus on development of the overall system, including integration with the Early Learning Hubs and Coordinated Care Organizations.

The agency will need seven new limited duration positions for grant management and coordination, to develop and coordinate new workforce initiatives, and to provide training and data analysis. No state matching funds are required for the grant. If successful, the agency will report to Ways and Means or the Emergency Board by January 2014 on the program and accomplishments, as well as plans and options when the federal funding ends.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends approval of the request.

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.