

Full Committee Pony for Grant Application
Oregon Health Authority

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of up to \$500,000 per year for two years, to provide outreach and enrollment assistance to increase enrollment of eligible children and their families in health care coverage.

The Office of Healthy Kids currently performs outreach to assist families in enrolling in the Healthy Kids program. This grant will expand that work in two ways. First, it will provide greater capacity to train health care providers and front-line staff at safety net clinics to help them enroll eligible families. Second, it will focus on outreach efforts to ensure that families understand the new application and enrollment system that will be in place for the 2014 expansion under the Affordable Care Act. The focus will be on enrolling families, whether they are eligible for Medicaid or insurance through Cover Oregon, the Oregon Health Insurance Exchange.

The grant application was due on February 21, 2013. If approved, funding would begin on June 1, 2013 and end May 31, 2015. No state matching funds are required for the grant.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends approval of the request.

Federal Grant Application Request

Oregon Health Authority

Connecting Kids to Coverage Outreach and Enrollment Grant

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 \$500,000 per year for two years, to provide outreach and enrollment assistance to increase enrollment of eligible children in health care coverage.

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 Connecting Kids to Coverage Outreach and Enrollment Grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Grant funding is expected to be up to \$500,000 per year for two years. No state matching funds are required for the grant. Grant funding cannot be used to substitute for state funding for these activities.

The Office of Healthy Kids currently performs outreach across the state through partnerships with community organizations, schools, providers, and other organizations, to assist families in enrolling in the Healthy Kids program. This grant will help to expand that work in two ways. First, it will provide greater capacity to train health care providers and front-line staff at clinics to help them enroll eligible families. Second, besides focusing on enrolling children in Healthy Kids, it will focus on outreach efforts to ensure that families understand the new application and enrollment system that will be in place for the 2014 expansion under the Affordable Care Act.

The Oregon Health Authority will partner with the Oregon Primary Care Association, the Oregon School Based Health Care Network, and the Office of Rural Health. These organizations have statewide relationships to primary care facilities, Federally Qualified Health Centers, school clinics, and rural clinics. The grant will enable these organizations to provide trainings in application assistance and awareness of the new enrollment system.

No new positions will be needed in the agency. The grant will fund one training coordinator/trainer position at the Oregon School Based Health Care Network, one at the Office of Rural Health, and two at the Oregon Primary Care Association.

The grant application is due on February 21, 2013. If approved, funding would begin on June 1, 2013 and end May 31, 2015. If necessary, additional expenditure limitation could be included in the OHA 2013-15 budget, or added later in the 2013-15 biennium.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.