



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Oregon Department of Corrections

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January 24, 2014



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

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request:

The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) is requesting authority to apply for a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. The application is described below.

PREA Program: Demonstration Projects to Establish "Zero Tolerance" Cultures for Sexual Assault in Correctional Facilities.

Announcement Date: January 6, 2014

Application Due Date: March 6, 2014

Grants.gov number: BJA-2014-3719

Agency Action:

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 is a federal law that seeks to eliminate sexual abuse and sexual harassment. This law applies to all federal and state prisons, jails, police lock-ups, private facilities, juvenile facilities, and community correctional settings. New standards were published in May 2012 and DOC is currently enhancing its effort towards implementation of the standards. To assist agencies in implementing the standards, the Bureau of Justice Assistance has announced a \$500,000 grant opportunity – PREA Program: Demonstration Projects to Establish "Zero Tolerance" Cultures for Sexual Assault in Correctional Facilities.

DOC was an early adopter of PREA; however, there are some standards that will be complex to implement in Oregon. The PREA standards state that one-third of DOC facilities will be audited every three years, and the Governor must certify compliance with the standards. If DOC is not compliant in each audit standard, it can lose 5 percent of federal grant funds in Oregon that are used for prison purposes. The U.S. Department of Justice has not released which grants in Oregon this will affect, but we expect it to have a significant impact on programs and services. In our application, we have targeted specific standards with complex implementation requirements.

This grant would benefit all DOC facilities and would impact the sexual safety of more than 14,650 adult offenders in 14 facilities. If successful, the grant funds would assist in preparation for the PREA audit and, ultimately, in reducing sexual abuse in our prisons. Roughly \$250,000 would assist in upgrades to our offender management systems to better track housing,

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programming, and work assignments of offenders who may be more likely to be sexually vulnerable or aggressive; better track incidents of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; develop an objective screening tool for risk; and assist DOC in monitoring for retaliation. The remaining grant funding would be used for preparation and expenses incurred for the audits, victim advocacy services to inmates who have experienced sexual abuse in prison, and translation services for our population. The grant will assist us in educating adults in custody regarding their right to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment, and how to report incidents that may occur.

Eligible applicants are limited to state and local government units and federally recognized Indian tribes. Awards to fund projects at multiple facilities such as DOC, will be capped at \$500,000. These awards will be made for up to a 24-month period.

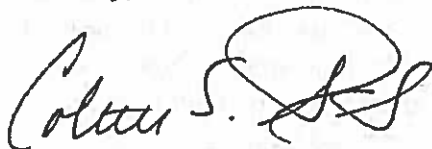
There is a match requirement for applicants, in which Federal funds may not exceed 50 percent of the total project. The 50-percent state match requirement (\$500,000) will be in the form of "in-kind" services that the department already expends as part of our efforts in providing sexual safety to offenders. This is currently accomplished through one full-time position that supervises the program, inmate orientation, staff training, policy implementation, and coordination of community services. The department will not need to utilize additional funds to meet the match requirement beyond what is already planned.

Action Requested:

Approve the request to apply for the grant. If approved, the department will return to the Emergency Board or the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for the necessary federal fund expenditure limitation to expend the funds.

Thank you for your consideration and approval of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colette S. Peters", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Colette S. Peters
Director

c: Heidi Moawad, Governor's Public Safety Policy Advisor