

Analysis
Oregon Youth Authority
Prison Rape Elimination Act Grant

Analyst: Linda Gilbert

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice for up to \$500,000 for Prison Rape Elimination Act grant.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Analysis: The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), a federal law enacted in 2003, was created to eliminate sexual abuse in confinement. Detention agencies are required to have a written policy mandating zero tolerance toward all forms of sexual abuse within the facility, and outlining the agency's approach to preventing, detecting, and responding to such conduct. Agencies are required to employ a PREA coordinator and compliance managers in facilities.

If awarded, the grant would be used for research and training in offender education, victim support services, data collection and performance management, preventive infrastructure and technology enhancements, culture change, and policy and practice review, revision, and implementation. Finally, funding would be applied to program evaluation.

The goal of the grant is to prevent, detect, respond to, and eliminate sexual abuse and sexual harassment, enhance facilities safety, affect culture change, and share resources, outcomes, and tools with local, state, and national partners. The grant would also allow the agency to partner with national experts to save time, prevent repetition, and effectively use the grant funds.

The \$500,000 grant period is two years. Match for the grant is \$500,000 or 50%, which can be met by in-kind work. A position currently assigned to PREA implementation will lead the match work. In addition, other agency staff will support planning and analysis, and supply executive oversight. If the grant is awarded, the agency will return to the Legislature or Emergency Board for expenditure limitation.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approving Oregon Youth Authority's submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice for \$500,000 for a Prison Rape Elimination Act Demonstration Project grant.