

The Honorable Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Peter Buckley, Co-Chair  
March 17, 2015  
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Office of the Director

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon  
**Health**  
Authority

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March 23, 2015

The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative 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 – Organized Approaches to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening (OHA-PH-15-05)

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

### **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Public Health Division requests permission to apply for the *Organized Approaches to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening* grant-Component 1 for federal funds for up to \$800,000 a year for 5 years, beginning June 30, 2015 and ending June 29, 2020, for a total of up to \$4,000,000.

The intent of the grant is to increase colorectal cancer (CRC) screening rates among persons 50-75 years of age. Component 1 focuses on health system changes to increase and improve colorectal cancer screening by developing effective, sustainable patient and provider reminder systems, tracking and monitoring systems. Component 2 is for screening delivery funds, for which PHD is not applying. The funding is available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The request for proposals was received on February 26, 2015, and the application is due on April 14, 2015. This grant funding requires no state matching funds. There is not a federal requirement for maintenance of effort.

### **Agency Action**

Colorectal cancer continues to be the second leading cause of cancer deaths among men and women in Oregon, second to lung cancer. There is evidence that colorectal cancer

screening save lives by preventing and finding cancers early. However, only three of five adults over age 50 are receiving screening according to recommended guidelines. The result is that more than half of colorectal cancers are diagnosed at later stages, making it more difficult and costly to treat. Latinos have the lowest colorectal cancer screening prevalence (21%) and the highest late stage diagnosis (70%) of any racial or ethnic population in Oregon.

Oregon's current colorectal cancer screening grant supported the development and implementation of the *Cancer You Can Prevent* campaign. The campaign features Oregonians throughout the state and encourages people to talk about and promote colorectal cancer screening. The Public Health Division (PHD) also works with Project Access Now to provide colorectal cancer screening for uninsured persons 50-64 years of age.

With grant funding, -PHD will collaborate with the American Cancer Society, county and tribal health departments, coordinated care organizations, federally qualified health centers, the Division of Medical Assistance Programs, the Transformation Center, and the Office of Equity and Inclusion to promote colorectal cancer screening and the development of effective health system approaches. The purpose is to reduce disparities in screening among the Medicaid and Latino populations through implementation of evidence-based interventions identified in *The Guide to Community Preventive Services*.

The project proposes to use the existing technical assistance and training system to with direct work Federally Qualified Health Centers in one coordinated care organization. The short term project outcomes are to: 1) Increase partnerships between state and local public health and health systems to support CRC screening; 2) Increase provider reminder systems within the health system; 3) increase knowledge about the need for CRC screening among the Medicaid and Latino populations; 4) Increase targeted screening and follow-up for Medicaid and Hispanic populations; 5) Reduce barriers to CRC screening among the Medicaid population; 6) Increase provider knowledge of CRC screening quality standards; 7) Increase adherence to the US Preventive Services Task Force Grade A recommended screening tests; 8) Increase measurement and use of health system data for evaluation and quality improvement; 9) Increase clinical adherence to appropriate, timely, and complete quality CRC services for screening, follow-up, treatment, and re-screening within the Medicaid population.

Funds will be used to repurpose activities of four different positions for a total of 1.75 FTE. These are existing permanent positions and include the following:

- Chronic Disease Programs Manager (PEMD): provides oversight of all grant staff and functions. Accountable for grant implementation and achievement of agreed on outcomes.
- Screening Technical Lead (PA3): provides technical assistance, training and contract management to increase colorectal cancer screening in collaboration with health systems.
- Community Program Liaison (PA2): provides colorectal cancer screening promotion technical assistance and training for county and tribal grantees.
- Research Analyst (RA3): works on data collection, analysis and dissemination.

There is no expectation that the state will continue to fund these activities or positions at the end of the grant period.

The OHA mission is to help people and communities achieve optimum physical, mental and social well-being through partnerships, prevention and access to quality, affordable health care. Engaging partners to help communities, coordinated care organizations and health systems promote and support evidence-based colorectal cancer screening makes it easier for Oregonians to take charge of their health. Grant dollars focused on increasing colorectal cancer screening and decreasing late stage colorectal cancer supports OHA in achieving the mission to attain better health, better care, and lower costs for all Oregonians.

### **Action Requested**

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Public Health Division requests authority to accept an Organized Approaches to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening grant from The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention if the state's application is successful.

### **Legislation Affected**

None

For additional information, please call Karen Girard, section manager, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention at 971-673-1053.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Coulombe".

Bill Coulombe  
Budget Director  
Oregon Health Authority

CC: Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Office  
George Naughton, Chief Financial Office  
Linda Ames, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Kate Nass, Chief Financial Office  
Art Ayre, Chief Financial Office