

Federal Grant Application Request

Oregon Health Authority

Oral Health Workforce 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 three years to increase access to oral health services in underserved areas.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Analysis: The Oregon Health Authority is requesting approval to apply for the Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. The grant is for up to \$500,000 per year for three years, and begins September 1, 2015.

The goal of the grant is to implement workforce models that support innovative delivery models to increase access to oral health services in underserved areas. This grant supports two different programs. First, the agency will build on earlier work using hygienists to deliver dental sealant services in schools. In collaboration with the Oregon Institute of Technology Dental Hygiene Department, the agency's Oral Health Program will establish a dental health program in Klamath Falls that includes providing dental sealants in the city's elementary schools. Eventually the program will be expanded to the county elementary schools.

Second, the Oral Health Program will partner with the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) Department of Community Dentistry through placement of final-year dental students in a number of community-based clinics around the state. Not only will this improve the provider capacity to serve disadvantaged populations, it will expand dental graduates' cultural competence and ability to address the issues experienced by these populations.

This grant requires a 40%, or \$200,000, state match. The grant will meet this requirement primarily through the in-kind value of services provided by the staff in community-based clinics that will supervise the OHSU dental students. There is no federal requirement for maintenance of effort for this grant. If successful, the agency expects to need two limited duration positions (1.50 FTE) for project and grants management, and data monitoring and evaluation activities.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request to apply for a grant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of up to \$500,000 per year for three years to increase access to oral health services.