



Oregon Department of Education

Kate Brown, Governor

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April 23, 2015

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 Education (ODE) respectfully requests approval to apply for a 2015 Team Nutrition Training Grant (CFDA #10.574) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in the amount of \$350,000.

Agency Action

The purpose of the 2015 Team Nutrition Training Grant is to expand and enhance training and educational activities in support of implementation of USDA nutrition standards for meals and snacks offered through the Child Nutrition Programs, which are overseen by the Oregon Department of Education.

The activities will focus on at least one of Team Nutrition's three behavior-focused strategies:

- Training and technical assistance
- Fun and interactive nutrition education
- School and community support

Program requirement activities must include one or more of the following objectives:

1. Use behavioral economics in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or the Child and Adult Care Food Program to develop environmental cues to increase children's choices of whole grains, fat-free or low-fat dairy products, fruits, vegetables, and legumes.
2. Provide training for child nutrition foodservice staff on implementing the most recent *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* (DGAs), applying for the HealthierUS School Challenge, maximizing the use of USDA Foods, and meeting meal pattern requirements.
3. Provide schools or child care providers participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs with technical assistance to create and maintain a healthier school or child care environment, including strategies supporting implementation and evaluation of wellness policies as specified in the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010.

At this point, ODE is conducting a needs assessment – as required by the grant - to determine which objective(s) to focus on and the specific activities to help achieve those objectives. ODE believes the needs assessment will align with objective 1 or 2. Once determined, we then will be able to specify activities to achieve the objective. We expect this assessment to be completed by May 1, 2015.

Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
Representative Peter Buckley, Co-Chair
April 23, 2015

The evaluation must include a description of baseline data to be collected prior to implementation, criteria for success, and how success will be measured.

The grant supports the agency's mission *to foster excellence for every learner* and is aligned closely to ODE's guiding values. These values include a high quality education for every student – an education that includes not only delivering high-quality curriculum and instruction and fostering a love of learning but also attending to the needs and wellness of the whole child. Adequate nutrition and a healthy environment help to ensure children's basic needs are met. In the absence of meeting these basic needs, children are at risk of not being ready to learn.

This grant does not require cost sharing or matching funds nor is additional staffing needed to carry out the activities under the grant. Once ODE completes its application, it will submit it to the Legislative Fiscal Office for review. The application deadline for the grant is May 19, 2015.

Action Requested

The ODE respectfully requests permission to apply to USDA FNS for a \$350,000 2015 Team Nutrition Training Grant.

Legislation Affected

None.

Sincerely,



Rob Saxton
Deputy Superintendent
Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
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Cc:

Sarah Drinkwater, Office of Learning – Student Services, ODE
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