



Oregon Department of Education

Kate Brown, Governor

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February 12, 2016

The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Peter Buckley, Co-Chair
Joint Interim 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), through its Early Learning Division (ELD), respectfully requests approval to apply for a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the Early Comprehensive Childhood Systems (ECCS) Impact.

Agency Action

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) through its Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) is accepting applications for federal fiscal year 2016 for an ECCS Impact grant. The purpose of this grant is to enhance early childhood systems building and demonstrate improved outcomes in population-based children's developmental health and family well-being indicators using a Collaborative Innovation and Improvement Network approach. An additional goal of the ECCS Impact grant is the development of collective impact expertise, implementation and sustainability of efforts at the state, county, and community levels.

Currently, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is completing a five-year ECCS Impact grant that is built into their 2015-17 Legislatively Approved Budget. In discussions between ELD and OHA, there is agreement that going forward, the ELD is better positioned, based on its mission and goals, to administer any future grants. OHA will complete the administration of the current grant, but ELD will apply for the new grant and if received, administer the program going forward.

The DHHS estimates providing up to fifteen grants nationwide for a project period beginning August 1, 2016 through July 31, 2021. If this request is approved, ELD will apply for a five-year grant for up to \$2,133,000 with a maximum of \$426,600 per federal fiscal year. There is no match or cost sharing requirements associated with the grant and the deadline for application is March 15, 2016.

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Page 2 of 2

The grant application will focus on improving the systems of coordination and connection between health and early learning services. Currently, 47% of the children who are referred to Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education Program are evaluated as ineligible for services. As a result, many families become lost in identifying services available to meet their need. ELD, in coordination with its network of Early Learning Hubs, will use this grant to focus on two communities to improve the service delivery pathways from initial screening to connection with a service. The result will be better coordination of services for children age 0-3 who experience social-emotional difficulties and developmental delays, but do not qualify for early intervention services.

By the end of the five-year grant period, ELD's estimates the number of children who are developmentally on track by age 3 to increase by 25% for the two focus communities. In addition to this outcome, ELD plans to create a system that enables the use of existing funds to more effectively provide services throughout the community.

As part of the grant application, ELD anticipates the need for two limited-duration positions to provide the necessary program and grant support.

Action Requested

Approve ODE to apply for a five-year federal grant up to \$2,133,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the Early Comprehensive Childhood Systems (ECCS) Impact.

Legislation Affected

None

Thank you for considering approving this request.

Sincerely,



Rick Crager
Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration