

## Analysis

### Oregon Department of Education -- Early Learning Division

#### Early Comprehensive Childhood Systems Impact

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**Analyst:** Doug Wilson

**Request:** Authorize the submission of a federal grant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for an Early Comprehensive Childhood Systems Impact grant.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Analysis:** The Oregon Department of Education 's (ODE) Early Learning Division is requesting authority to apply for a federal grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of this five-year Early Comprehensive Childhood Systems (ECCS) Impact grant is to enhance early childhood systems building and demonstrate improved outcomes for children's development health and family well-being indicators.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is finishing a similar five-year grant and the two agencies have determined that ODE would be a better fit to administer future grants under this grant program. ODE anticipates applying for a five-year grant for up to a total of \$2,133,000 with a maximum of \$426,600 annually. The federal agency is anticipating to award 15 grants under this round. The grant application is due March 15, 2016 and there is no matching requirement.

If approved, ODE plans to focus on coordination between health and early learning services for children age 0-3 who have social-emotional difficulties and developmental delays, but who do not qualify for early intervention program funding from the state. Many children are entering kindergarten with serious behavior challenges and social emotional challenges which leave them with a higher hurdle in meeting academic needs. Many of these children come from households where there is parental depression which can lead to childhood trauma. The aim of the grant is to develop a system for triaging the needs of these households, and connecting them with the proper community supports. The agency asserts that the intent is not create additional demand for services which many contend are already underfunded, but to coordinate the services so they can be provided more efficiently.

Grant funds would be directed to two Early Learning Hubs (estimated at roughly \$125,000 per year for each) for the coordination of services and establishing a family resource management function. Under federal guidelines this grant is not to be used for the purchase or provision of services. Other uses planned for would be to fund an Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems manager (1.00 FTE) and part of an existing position (0.30 FTE), travel, and possibly systems mapping.

The Legislation Fiscal Office (LFO) recommends authorizing the agency to apply for this grant.