



Office of the Director

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Authority

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February 3, 2017

The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Re: Request to Apply Competitive Grant – Support for Expectant and Parenting
Teens, Women, Fathers and Their Families (OHA-PHD-17-03)

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Public Health Division requests permission to apply for the “Support for Expectant and Parenting Teens, Women, Fathers and Their Families” grant for federal funds up to \$1,500,000 per year for 3 years, beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2020, for a total of up to \$4,500,000.

The intent of the grant is to collaborate with an institution of higher education to provide expectant and parenting teens, women, fathers, and their families with a seamless network of supportive services including evidence-based/evidence-informed approaches to improve their health and well-being. The funding is available through the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Adolescent Health. The request for proposals was received on December 23, 2016, and the application is due on March 24, 2017. This grant funding requires no state matching funds. There is no federal requirement for maintenance of effort.

Agency Action

Expectant and parenting teens and young adults tend to be marginalized with poorer health outcomes, lower education achievements, and less economic participation. Some groups have added layers of vulnerabilities such as lack of access to traditional support systems in health and education as well as stigmatization and isolation. Expectant and parenting teens and young adults are confronted with a host of simultaneous risk factors such as educational underachievement and school dropout, depression, inadequate prenatal and

postpartum care, food insecurity, and subsequent low birth weight babies and poor child health outcomes. All of these factors affect the health of the pregnancy, the students and their children and limits their ability to thrive and become independent.

OHA proposes to focus on the community college student population. Community Colleges serve expectant and parenting teens and young adults, ages 16-24 years old more than other educational institutions, and the students tend to be lower income. Nationally 30% of community college students are parents. Students with children are especially unlikely to complete a certificate or degree within six years of enrollment, with only 33% attaining a degree or certificate in that time. 71% of all student parents are women. They face significant time demands, with 56% of single parents devoting more than 30 hours per week to dependent care, and often have significant financial challenges and graduate with more debt¹. While it is within the mission of the community college system to provide social services and employment assistance to their students, they are increasingly short on resources to develop a comprehensive system to fulfill this mission.

An enhanced system of supportive services for these students would not only improve the health outcomes of expectant and parenting population, but also educational, social, and economic outcomes that shape health. The vision is to create an enabling environment for expectant and parenting teens, women, and fathers to continue their education; empower them with relevant knowledge and skills to be productive adults and effective parents; provide and link them to services to ensure they are healthy and make informed decisions about their health; and support them in making successful and healthy transitions into adulthood and the labor market.

OHA proposes supporting 4-6 community colleges in Oregon to enhance their system of services for this population that includes evidenced based/evidence informed approaches to improve health and well-being of this student population. OHA will conduct a needs and resources assessment to better understand the strengths and gaps of services across five core service areas:

¹ www.iwpr.org. Institute for Women's Policy Research, Fact Sheet IWRP#C424 - November 2014.

1. Personal health;
2. Child health;
3. Independence/education/employment;
4. Concrete supports (transportation and housing); and
5. Parenting supports.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) process will determine which community college sites will be funded. In addition, OHA will be working with the Council of Student Services Administrators to find opportunities to strengthen the system of services for all 17 Oregon Community Colleges. The goal is to improve access to high-quality resources for the expectant and parenting student population and make expectant and parenting programs and services sustainable parts of routine systems through institutionalization and expansion in the community college setting.

Action Requested

The Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division requests authority to accept the Support for Expectant and Parenting Teens, Women, Fathers and Their Families grant funding from DHHS if the state's application is successful.

Legislation Affected

None

For additional information, please contact Cate Wilcox, Maternal and Child Health Section Manager at cate.s.wilcox@state.or.us, or at 971-673-0299. Lillian Shirley, Director of the Public Health Division, at 971-673-1229 may also be contacted.

Sincerely,



Lynne Saxton
Director

CC: Linda Ames, Legislative Fiscal Office
Tom MacDonald, Department of Administrative Services
George Naughton, Department of Administrative Services
Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Office