

Oregon Health Authority MacDonald

Request: Authorization to apply for a federal grant of up to \$4.5 million to support expectant and parenting teens, women, fathers, and their families.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) requests authorization to apply for a competitive federal grant to help provide expectant and parenting teens, women, fathers, and their families with a seamless network of supportive services. A key objective of the grant is to improve not only the health outcomes of the expectant and parenting population, but also the educational, social, and economic outcomes that shape health. The federal grant requirements intend to maximize outreach by implementing the program's activities in multiple primary settings, specifically high schools, community service centers, and institutions of higher education.

If awarded funding, OHA proposes to focus on the state's community college population to create policies, partnerships, programs, and linkages that support expectant and parenting students and their families. To help accomplish this, the agency would carry out the following initiatives: conduct a needs and resources assessment to identify gaps and opportunities in the community college system; establish a statewide advisory committee to implement policy and program recommendations; help make parenting programs and services sustainable parts of routine community college systems; and implement policies across community college systems that enhance supportive services.

OHA's grant proposal calls for funds to support four-to-six community colleges to achieve these objectives. The community colleges would be selected through a request-for-proposal process. OHA would also partner with the Council of Student Services Administrators to help strengthen the system of parental services for all of Oregon's 17 community colleges.

The grant application is due no later than March 24, 2017. The federal Department of Health and Human Services anticipates awarding up to 20 grants nationwide in the amount of \$500,000 to \$1,500,000 each year for a three-year project period. The federal grant does not require state matching funds or maintenance of effort, but does require a 25 percent match—either cash or in-kind support—from institutions of higher education that receive funding from state grantees. Community colleges that receive funding from OHA would be subject to this match requirement.

OHA's proposal indicates one position will be needed to serve as a Program Manager/Coordinator. If awarded funding, OHA will return to the Legislative Assembly if it is determined that a limitation increase and additional position authority are needed.