

**Oregon Health Authority
Early Hearing Detection**

On February 20th, the Human Services Subcommittee recommended approval of the submission of a federal grant application from the Oregon Health Authority to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the amount of \$250,000 per year for three years to support the early identification of infants with hearing loss.

Oregon's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program resides in the Public Health Division, and is responsible for collecting data and tracking: 1) the hearing screening status of all newborns, 2) follow-up diagnostic evaluations when appropriate, 3) eligibility and enrollment in early intervention services for infants with hearing loss. EHDI facilitates data sharing at each step, and also supports the process, making sure infants do receive follow-up and early intervention services. EHDI does not, however, provide any of the direct services.

This grant would provide funding to improve the capacity of current EHDI information systems to collect complete data, including expansion of electronic data exchange. It would also provide expanded capacity to participate in a CDC data exchange and improve data quality and reporting.

No state matching funds are required, and the agency does not need any additional positions.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends approval.