



OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
Office of the State Court Administrator

March 3, 2017
(SENT BY EMAIL)

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: Federal Grant Application for Family Court Enhancement Project – Retroactive Approval

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of Request

The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) is seeking retroactive approval of a Federal Grant application that was due January 12, 2017. The grant application is intended to continue funding the existing Family Court Enhancement Project (FCEP) at the Family Court located in the Multnomah County Circuit Court.

OJD submitted a notice of intent to apply letter to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House on December 30, 2016. The application guidelines were issued at the beginning of December 2016 and the application deadline was January 12, 2017. Due to the late guideline issuance date, OJD was not able to bring the application approval request otherwise to the Emergency Board meeting in mid-December.

Federal Grant Application – Justice for Families Program

The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) has applied for a Federal grant through the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) located in the U.S Department of Justice, for continued enhancement efforts of the Family Court in the Multnomah County Circuit Court. The grant period is for a 36 month period, beginning October 2017 through September 2021, and the requested amount is \$550,000 for that timeframe. There is no state funding match requirement.

The Multnomah County Family Court has been in existence since 1993, and handles all domestic relations, juvenile, probate, mental health cases, or any misdemeanor offense or contempt matter involving violation of a protective order, or any child support enforcement contempt procedures. The Family Court is presided over by the Chief Family Court Judge and nine other circuit court

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judges and four referees. As resources allow, OJD has supported integrated family courts as a means to improve the family's capabilities to succeed and improve the future of its children. Multnomah has been operating a Family Court Enhancement project, through an OVW grant for the last two years, and was one of four locations across the nation selected for this enhancement program.

OJD's application seeks to continue the program including funding for two key components of the FCEP, the Coordinator and Family Court Navigator positions, to provide needed training, and to allow integration with OVW-funded research at Portland State University. The Navigator position works with self-represented family law litigants dealing with domestic violence, creates materials for use by self-represented litigants, and makes recommendations for the Self Help Center. The Coordinator position helps facilitate a multi-disciplinary team focused on coordinated community response to domestic violence in family court. The grant will also provide funding for training for court staff and family law professionals on trauma, procedural fairness, and responding to domestic violence. Staff will partner with Portland State University on their Research and Evaluation grant from OVW and review recommendations they give the court about racial, ethnic, and linguistic minority communities.

Action Requested

The Oregon Judicial Department requests retroactive approval for this federal grant application. If the application is accepted, OJD will return to the Legislature in the future with additional program-specific information and to request federal funds limitation as required.

Sincerely,



Kingsley W. Click
State Court Administrator

KC: ma/17eKC008ma

ec: Chief Justice Thomas A. Balmer
David Moon, Director, Business and Fiscal Services Division, OJD
John Fagan, Budget Manager, OJD
Phil Lemman, Legislative Communication Manager, OJD
Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Officer, LFO
Steve Bender, Principal Legislative Officer, LFO
George Naughton, Chief Financial Officer, CFO
Michelle Lisper, Policy and Budget Analyst, CFO-BAM
Barbara Marcille, Trial Court Administrator, OJD