

Analysis  
**Oregon Health Authority**  
Opioid Crisis Grant

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**Analyst:** Linda Ames

**Request:** Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in the amount of \$6.6 million per year for two years to address the opioid crisis.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Analysis:** The Oregon Health Authority is requesting approval to apply for the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The grant is anticipated to be \$6,564,425 per year for two years, and is expected to be awarded on April 15, 2017.

The purpose of the grant is to increase access to treatment and reduce unmet need for opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment, while decreasing opioid overdose deaths through prevention, treatment, and recovery. Oregon ranks 4th in the nation for non-medical use of prescription pain relievers. This grant will leverage existing activities and resources, coordinating with and supplementing existing SAMHSA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grants received in 2015 and 2016. Specifically, the grant will continue to support the implementation of prescribing guidelines in health systems and clinical practices. This includes counties where the earlier grant funding will end in August, as well as expanding the work to eastern Oregon.

In addition, the grant will supplement work with OHSU to increase the number of certified Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) providers, including nurse practitioners and physician assistants, and to train more providers on opioid prescribing guidelines; implement a public education strategy to raise awareness of OUD and the benefits of MAT; work with coordinated care organizations to distribute naloxone kits to needle exchange programs; partner with Department of Corrections to implement a pilot program to connect individuals with OUD with a peer navigator when reentering the community; and expand peer supported recovery services for individuals in recovery supported housing.

This grant is not competitive, and will be awarded to states via a formula based on unmet need for OUD treatment, and drug poisoning deaths. The application is due February 17, 2017. No state matching funds are required, and there is no federal requirement for maintenance of effort. The agency expects to need one limited duration position to meet the requirements of the grant. The additional federal funds expenditure limitation and position authority will be included as part of the agency's 2017-19 budget recommendation.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request to apply for a grant from SAMSHA for \$6.6 million per year for two years to address the opioid crisis.