

Analysis

Item 27: Commission for the Blind

Federal and Other Funds Carryforward

Analyst: Kim To

Request: Increase the Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$2,552,443 and increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$156,098 for the purpose of expending carryforward funds earmarked for: (1) the agency's case management migration and update project; and (2) the purchase of equipment for clients in the Business Enterprise Program.

Analysis: For the 2017-19 biennium, the Oregon Commission for the Blind received legislative approval to implement two projects: (1) an agency-wide case management migration and update project; and (2) the purchase of equipment for clients in the Business Enterprise Program. The agency reserved a portion of Workforce Investment Opportunities Act (WIOA) Federal Funds for the case management migration project and received Federal re-allotment funding for the purchase of equipment for clients in the Business Enterprise Program. HB 3252 (2017) modified prescribed responsibilities of the Commission for the Blind regarding vending facilities and other services provided at public buildings and properties. Due to a legislative change that provided for a longer transition period for existing Vending Facility Managers to comply with HB 3253 (2017), the schedule for purchasing equipment was delayed. In addition, the implementation phase of the case management migration project initiated in 2017-19 is anticipated to extend into the 2019-21 biennium.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend an increase of \$2,552,443 in the Federal Funds expenditure limitation and an increase of \$156,098 in the Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Commission for the Blind in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2020 legislative session for the purpose of expending carryforward funds earmarked for the agency's case management project and the purchase of equipment for clients in the Business Enterprise Program.

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Oregon Commission for the Blind
Cohen

Request: Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$2,552,443 and Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$156,098 for expenditures taking place in the 2019-21 biennium.

Recommendation: Approve the request during the 2020 Legislative Session.

Discussion: The Oregon Commission for the Blind (OCB) Business Enterprise program operates vending facilities in public buildings or on properties occupied by any department or agency of the State of Oregon. During the 2016 Legislative Session, the Business Enterprise (BE) program received \$2.7 million in Federal funding, along with \$0.7 million General Fund and \$0.2 million Other Funds expenditure limitation as matching funds to purchase new vending machines. Due to the timing of the funding approval and procurement process, the funds approved were not fully expended during the 2015-17 biennium.

Due to delayed implementation from House Bill 3253 during the 2017-19 biennium, only \$0.4 million in vending machines were purchased. This request for \$2.0 million Federal Funds expenditure limitation reinstates the remaining expenditure limitation to complete this project.

Additionally, the 2017-19 Legislatively Approved Budget included Federal Funds to upgrade the agency's automated case management system. The case management system migration, known as the AWARE project, was awarded \$0.6 million Federal Funds. OCB did not fully expend those funds in the 2017-19 biennium and is requesting to establish expenditure limitation in the 2019-21 biennium to complete the project.

The OCB is also requesting a technical adjustment to shift \$38,138 of expenditure limitation from Other Funds to Federal Funds due to revenue changes in the Independent Living Program.

The below table is a summary of requested expenditure limitation from Federal and Other Funds:

	Other Funds Limitation	Federal Funds Limitation
Business Enterprise Vending	\$ 194,236	\$ 1,963,624
AWARE Project	\$ -	\$ 550,681
Independent Living Fund Shift	\$ (38,138)	\$ 38,138
Total F/F Limitation	\$ 156,098	\$ 2,552,443



Kate Brown, Governor

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FOR THE
BLIND**

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December 6, 2019

Senate Co-Chair Betsy Johnson
Senate Co-Chair Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
Representative Co-Chair Dan Rayfield
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

The agency is requesting an increase in Federal Limitation by \$2,552,443 and Other Funds Limitation by \$156,098 for expenditures that will take place in 19-21.

Agency Action

The agency had planned for client equipment purchases in the Business Enterprise Program that did not take place due to legislative change that provided for a longer transition for existing Vending Facility Managers. This resulted in a delay in the equipment purchases that will now occur in 19-21.

The agency had planned to initiate a case management system changeover in that was delayed to 19-21 in order to receive the necessary funding for the project. The agency had reserved funds for the project that can be applied to the project in 19-21.

The agency is also requesting a technical budget adjustment to Package 50 to revert Other Funds to Federal Funds.

Action Requested

The agency is requesting Federal Limitation be increased by \$2,552,443 and Other Funds Limitation by \$156,098.

Legislation Affected

No legislation is affected by this request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dacia Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dacia" being more prominent than the last name "Johnson".

Dacia Johnson, MS, CRC
Executive Director

CC: Co-Vice Chair Senator Fred Girod
Co-Vice Chair Representative David Gomberg
Co-Vice Chair Representative Greg Smith