

## Analysis

### Oregon Health Authority

#### Collecting Violent Death Information Grant

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**Analyst:** Tom MacDonald

**Request:** Approve the submission of a federal grant application from the Oregon Health Authority to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the amount of up to \$270,256 per year for three years, for a total of up to \$810,768, to support the collection and dissemination of data on violent deaths in Oregon.

**Analysis:** The Public Health Division requests approval to apply for the federal Collecting Violent Death Information Using the National Violent Death Reporting System grant. This opportunity provides funds to support the collection and dissemination of surveillance data on violent deaths, which the grant defines as a death resulting from the intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or against a group or community. This includes all homicides and suicides, as well as deaths occurring when law enforcement exerts deadly force while acting in the line of duty. Additionally, recipients will be required to collect information about unintentional firearm injury deaths and on deaths where the intent cannot be determined but where there is evidence that force was used.

Grantees must submit this information to the CDC through the CDC's web-based data system, with the data being sourced from death certificates, coroner and medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. Grantees must also share this information with key stakeholders, including government officials, organizations working to prevent violence and injuries, and the public. The overarching goal of these activities is to inform violence prevention efforts and help reduce violent deaths across the country.

The Public Health Division has received funding from this federal program in the past and uses the Oregon Violent Death Reporting System (ORVDRS) to upload the state's violent death data to the CDC's web-based system. The ORVDRS is also the tool used to provide data to key stakeholders to support violent prevention activities, research, and policymaking, and is the source of violent death data for a public dashboard maintained on the agency's website.

The federal grant application is due by April 15, 2019 for the next three-year grant period starting September 1, 2019. The grant does not have a state match or maintenance of effort requirement and the agency will not need additional staff. The agency will return to the legislature if an adjustment to Federal Funds expenditure limitation is needed in relation to the grant proposal.

**Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation:** Approve the request.

## Oregon Health Authority Brickman

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**Request:** Authorization to apply for a three-year grant in the amount of \$810,768 from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (CDC). The grant is an opportunity from the Collecting Violent Death Information Using the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) and will allow the Oregon Health Authority to collect and disseminate data on violent deaths in Oregon.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is requesting authorization to apply for a grant up to \$810,768, which will equal approximately \$270,256 per year for a three year period beginning September 1, 2019 and ending August 31, 2022. The goal of the grant is to collect and disseminate data on violent deaths in Oregon to support the planning, implementation and evaluation of injury and violence prevention programs. No state match is required for the grant, nor do the grant funds require federal maintenance of effort expenditures.

In 2002, the CDC implemented the NVDRS (OMB No. 0920-0607). NVDRS is a state-based surveillance system that uses CDC guidelines and a CDC web-based data entry system to link data from Death Certificates (DC), Coroner/Medical Examiner reports including toxicology reports, and Law Enforcement reports to assist each participating state, territory, or district in designing and implementing tailored prevention and intervention efforts. Since 2002, OHA has been funded to implement and administer the Oregon Violent Death Reporting System (ORVDRS). The system has been recognized as a model for states implementing the Violent Death Reporting System. The ORVDRS data collected thus far is available through an interactive data dashboard and has been used to provide information for a recent publication on homicide trends and characteristics in Oregon. The funding opportunity is aligned with the State Health Improvement Plan suicide prevention priority area and with the Oregon Public Health Division’s goal to promote health and resilient environments to improve quality of life.

The request for proposal provides a funding opportunity for recipients to collect and disseminate surveillance data on homicides, suicides, deaths from legal intervention, death of undetermined intent and unintentional firearm deaths from 2020 to 2022 to improve planning, implementation and evaluation of violence prevention programs. The collection and use of these data are designed to support the national goal of preventing violent death across all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories.



Office of the Director

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon  
**Health**  
Authority

500 Summer Street NE E20

Salem, OR 97301

Voice: 503-947-2340

Fax: 503-947-2341

TTY: 503-947-5080

March 13, 2019

The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

### **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Public Health Division requests permission to apply for the Collecting Violent Death Information Using the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) funding opportunity. This cooperative agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) would fund up to \$270,256 a year for 3 years, beginning September 1, 2019, and ending August 31, 2022, for a total of up to \$810,768. The intent of the grant is to continue collection and dissemination of data on violent deaths in Oregon to support the planning, implementation, and evaluation of injury and violence prevention programs, as well as research and policymaking. The request for proposal was received on February 6, 2019, and the application is due on April 15, 2019. Funding is available through the federal CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. This grant funding requires no state matching funds and does not have a federal requirement for maintenance of effort.

### **Agency Action**

OHA has been funded to implement the Oregon Violent Death Reporting System (ORVDRS) since this opportunity first became available in 2002. ORVDRS has since been recognized as a model for other states newly implementing the VDRS. ORVDRS provides a comprehensive, high-quality source of data on homicides, suicides, and deaths of undetermined intent, as well as deaths from legal intervention and those due to unintentional firearm injuries. Data inform suicide prevention activities and support state child fatality reviews.

The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair  
March 13, 2019  
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ORVDRS data, which are available via an interactive data dashboard, have informed multiple projects including a recent publication on homicide trends and characteristics in Oregon and another on suicide prevention among firearm owners.

The OHA mission is to help people and communities achieve optimum physical, mental and social well-being through partnerships, prevention and access to quality, affordable health care. This funding opportunity supports the OHA mission by providing a source of high-quality data to inform injury and violence prevention initiatives in communities in Oregon. This opportunity is aligned with the *State Health Improvement Plan* suicide prevention priority area and with the *Oregon Public Health Division Strategic Plan* goal to promote healthy and resilient environments to improve quality of life.

**Action Requested**

The OHA Public Health Division requests permission to apply for the National Violent Death Reporting System grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Legislation Affected**

None.

For additional information, please contact Injury and Violence Prevention Section Manager Laura Chisholm at 971-673-0987 or [laura.f.chisholm@state.or.us](mailto:laura.f.chisholm@state.or.us).

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Allen  
Director

EC: Tom MacDonald, Legislative Fiscal Office  
George Naughton, Department of Administrative Services  
Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Office