

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

**Department of Human Services  
Legal Assistance Enhancement Program**

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On April 18, 2019, the Human Services Subcommittee recommended approval of the submission of a federal grant application from the Department of Human Services to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Community Living, in the amount of up to \$250,000 per year over three years (\$750,000 total) to help strengthen and enhance legal assistance programs serving older adults.

The local Area Agencies on Aging help older adults find legal assistance, which is a required activity under the federal Older Americans Act. Proposed grant activities include the following:

- Creating new educational materials to better inform seniors about how to get help with legal problems
- Improving intake and case representation practices by tapping senior law expertise
- Developing an Oregon State Bar certified pro bono program specifically for assisting residents of care facilities with residents' rights issues

The grant requires the state to pay at least 25% of the total project cost; DHS plans to use an existing position to provide that match and manage the project. The agency's grant application is due April 29, 2019 and awards are expected by August.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends approval.