

Analysis

Oregon Health Authority

Substance Abuse Prevention

Analyst: Tom MacDonald

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to the US. Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$5 million over five years for substance abuse prevention activities.

Analysis: OHA requests approval to apply for the next five-year period of the Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success federal grant. This competitive opportunity provides up to \$1 million per year over a five-year period to strengthen alcohol and drug abuse prevention capacity and infrastructure at the state and local level with the goal of reducing the onset and progression of substance misuse among youth and adults.

If awarded, the key grant activities OHA will be required to carry out include three general components: 1) provide sub-grants to tribal and community partners to support substance abuse prevention planning, implementation, and evaluation activities; 2) identify communities at the highest need for substance misuse prevention strategies; and 3) expand and enhance the development of a statewide substance abuse prevention strategy through activities such as targeted public communications and training community partners. Tribes and local communities will be required to use their subgrants for a range of activities that support the adoption of data-driven substance abuse prevention strategies, building capacity to address substances affecting the local jurisdiction, and collecting and reporting community-level data to track outcomes, among other activities that strengthen substance abuse prevention efforts.

In addition to supporting the activities described above, the federal funds will be used to support the work of two positions in the Public Health Division, which include a project director and epidemiologist. The federal grant requires these roles to be part of each awardee's project. The agency's Public Health Division has been awarded this five-year grant twice before. The last grant period ended in September 2019, at which time the agency received a grant extension through June 2020 for the tribal and local community pass-through funding component.

The federal grant application is due by March 6, 2020 and the five-year grant cycle begins September 1, 2020. The grant does not require a state match or cost-sharing. If OHA receives an award, the agency will return to the legislature to request adjustments to position authority and expenditure limitation, as needed.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: Approve the request.



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Kate Brown, Governor

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January 28, 2020

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 Emergency/Request

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Public Health Division requests permission to apply for the Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP).

The SPF-PFS grant program is intended to prevent the onset and reduce the progression of substance misuse, specifically excessive alcohol use and its related harms, while strengthening prevention capacity and infrastructure at the community and state level. Grant recipients are to identify the primary problematic substances in their jurisdictions and develop and implement strategies to prevent their misuse among youth and adults.

Funds up to \$1,000,000 will be available for up to a five-year project period beginning September 1, 2020.

OHA learned of the grant opportunity on January 8, 2020. The application is due on March 6, 2020. The grant requires no state matching funds and does not have a federal requirement for maintenance of effort.

Agency Action

Excessive alcohol use and the many problems it causes are on the rise. In Oregon, alcohol-related deaths have increased 38 percent since 2001, killing 1,900 people in 2016. It is the third leading cause of preventable death in the state. Excessive alcohol

use costs the state economy over \$3.5 billion per year in lost workplace productivity, health care expenses, criminal justice costs, and motor vehicle crashes.

Excessive alcohol use in Oregon is more prevalent among people with more education and higher incomes. The rate of alcohol-related deaths in Oregon, however, is more than double among American Indians and Alaska Natives (84 per 100,000) compared to any other racial or ethnic group (41 per 100,000 among non-Hispanic whites). Among youth, American Indian and Alaska Native youth are more likely to drink alcohol and binge drink compared to other racial and ethnic groups.

This grant opportunity aligns with Public Health's priorities to address excessive alcohol use and related harms through evidence-based state and community interventions. It provides funding to:

1. Expand and enhance alcohol and drug prevention through efforts through mass reach health communications and training to community partners;
2. Identify communities within the state at highest need for prevention strategies;
3. Provide tribal and community grant awards for local prevention planning, implementation and evaluation;
4. Collect data to determine progress in achieving outcomes; and
5. Ensure stewardship, grant administration and coordination of state and community prevention strategies.

Previously, Oregon has been awarded two five-year federal SPF awards for similar initiatives. Oregon currently receives federal funding from SAMHSA's Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment block grant to prevent substance misuse in Oregon providing funding to counties and federally recognized tribes. This new funding opportunity builds on Oregon's current and past work to decrease excessive drinking and its related problems and develop and implement strategies to prevent excessive drinking among youth and adults.

This funding would allow Public Health to sustain and expand leadership statewide for alcohol and drug prevention, together with community partners. Specifically, this funding would be able to support infrastructure for data and policy, systems and environmental change approaches to address the health effects of excessive alcohol use and related harms. This includes planning, implementation and evaluation of prevention strategies, mass reach communications and messaging, evaluation and data activities, and policy interventions.

If awarded funds, Public Health will work with new and existing partners who have a demonstrated history of commitment to this work, including local public health

agencies, Regional Health Equity Coalitions, federally recognized tribes in Oregon, county Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programs, Lines for Life, Oregon Liquor Control Commission, and Oregon's Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission.

Traditionally, most alcohol and drug prevention resources are passed through to local communities. If awarded the grant, Public Health would use some of the funding for two positions—one Operations & Policy Analyst 4 and one Research Analyst—needed to support grant activities for infrastructure, coordination and surveillance for alcohol and drug prevention enterprise-wide.

Action Requested

The OHA Public Health Division requests permission to apply for the Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success federal grant from SAMHSA. If OHA is awarded this grant, the agency will work with the Department of Administrative Services and Legislative Fiscal Office on meeting its need for position authority and budget limitation for program implementation.

Legislation Affected

None.

For additional information, please call Karen Girard, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section Manager, at (971) 673-1064 or Lillian Shirley, Director of the Public Health Division, at (971) 673-1229.

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Allen
Director

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