

ANALYSIS

Consent Agenda – Various Agencies Requests for Approval to Apply for Federal Grants

The following five state agencies seek retroactive approval to submit seven grant applications to various federal agencies. Retroactive approval is necessary for grant applications with deadlines that fell before the submittal dates for the September 2021 meeting of the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means and for which prior legislative approval had not been obtained. All agencies submitted advance notification to legislative leadership of their intent to apply for the grants as required by the Department of Administrative Services and Legislative Fiscal Office.

Item 6: Oregon Health Authority – Health Insurance Marketplace

Analyst: Tom MacDonald

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the amount of \$800,000 over a period of one year to enhance consumer education, outreach, and navigation services related to the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace.

Analysis: The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) requests retroactive approval to apply for a federal grant through the State Exchange Modernization Grant Program. This program was established by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to enable states to modernize their health insurance exchange systems (if on a state platform) and/or support program policies or procedures necessary to implement new federal requirements, including a temporary increase in available premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions authorized in ARPA.

Since Oregon's insurance exchange is on the federal platform, OHA is eligible to receive the maximum \$800,000 offered for qualifying program activities. The agency plans to use the grant to enhance the functionality of the Marketplace website, including translation into Spanish; provide supplemental training to community partners responsible for assisting consumers; assist consumers whose program eligibility has changed; and support marketing and outreach campaigns. If awarded, all grant activities will be carried out by existing program staff and community and contractual partners; no new state positions will be required.

OHA submitted a timely 10-day notification letter ahead of applying for the grant by the July 20, 2021 federal deadline. OHA coordinated with the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) on the grant application given the ongoing transfer of this program's operations from DCBS to OHA pursuant to the passage of SB 65 (2021). No state match is required.

Item 8: Oregon Health Authority – Climate and Health Program

Analyst: Tom MacDonald

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the amount of up to \$12 million over five years to help reduce negative health outcomes attributed to climate change.

Analysis: The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) requests retroactive approval to apply for the federal Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) competitive grant, which supports strategies that build resilience to the health impacts of climate change. OHA submitted a timely 10-day notice of its intent to apply for the grant's core component and three optional components related to building community capacity and improving data tools. The agency has since learned its application was approved for only the core component at \$2 million over the five-year grant period beginning September 1, 2021.

OHA's existing Climate and Health Program, which has largely been funded by previous BRACE grant awards, will manage the new grant by advancing ongoing program activities and strategy development. The following summarizes the key planned activities:

- Provide technical assistance and training to community partners and publish an updated climate and health resiliency plan that identifies community-driven priorities;
- Establish a web-based climate and health data tool;
- Support OHA's role in implementing the state's 2021 Climate Equity Blueprint, which was developed by 24 participating state agencies, with respect to information sharing, the design of program outcomes and goals focused on climate equity, and improving data collection; and
- Increase collaboration among environmental health, behavioral health, and other relevant sectors based on forthcoming recommendations from a report on climate change, youth depression, and mental health. This report was required by Executive Order 20-04 and will be published in early 2022.

Over half the cost to support these activities will be driven by existing program staff salaries and a new permanent Operations and Program Analyst 3 position to work on planning, policy, and communications. The grant will also fund contractual expenses for technical assistance and the development of culturally responsive climate and health curricula. The grant does not require a state match or maintenance of effort.

Item 13: Employment Department – Short Time Compensation

Analyst: Michelle Deister

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Labor in the amount of \$1,264,460 to improve and promote the Short Time Compensation Program.

Analysis: On July 2, the Oregon Employment Department (OED) provided notice of intent to apply for federal grant funds. Short Time Compensation is known as Work Share in Oregon; the program can be used by employers to avoid layoffs by reducing hours worked. Employees can maintain some employment hours as well as health insurance and some unemployment insurance benefits, while employers can maintain a skilled workforce during a period of economic decline.

Funds will be utilized as follows: (1) to educate employers, the public and workers about Short Time Compensation so they are aware that it is a potential option in the event of a future downturn; and (2) to modernize program processes through OED's Information Technology and business process modernization effort with self-service plan filing and amendments, automatic processing of claims certification, and development of compliance review. The grant application was due August 20, 2021. No matching funds or additional positions are required.

Item 14: Housing and Community Services Department – Housing Stability Counseling

Analyst: Michelle Deister

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to NeighborWorks America in the amount of \$4,051,400 to provide housing counseling services.

Analysis: On June 6, the Housing and Community Services Department (HCSD) provided notice of intent to apply for \$4.1 million to continue foreclosure avoidance and financial education services to households facing instability such as eviction, default, foreclosure, loss of income or homelessness. HCSD assumed as many 3,705 households could be counseled through the state's 17 homeownership centers (some with multiple locations) with the amount of funding requested. Seventy-three percent of funds will provide direct counseling services, five percent will be utilized for HCSD grant administration and reporting, and 22% will provide program related support, including training outreach and technology support to the homeownership centers. HCSD was notified on September 8 that a grant of \$1,681,331 was awarded. Funds must be committed by February 28, 2023, no matching funds are required, and HCSD will not need additional position authority.

Item 15: Business Development Department – Broadband Infrastructure

Analyst: Matt Stayner

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunication and Information Administration in the amount of \$16.47 million over a period of one year to fund competitive grants for the deployment of broadband infrastructure.

Analysis: Federal funding of \$288 million was made available nationally under the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 for the funding of grants to deploy fixed broadband infrastructure through state and providers of broadband services. Although no minimum or maximum awards are defined, the federal agency anticipates making individual awards in the range of \$5.0 million to \$30.0 million. The requested grant funding by Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) is \$16.47 million. No cost sharing by the state and provider partnerships is required, however, non-federal cost share of at least 10% of eligible costs are preferable. The identified partners have pledged \$4.04 million in matching funds. OBDD will use up to 5% of the total funding requested to administer the grant, including the use of up to two limited-duration staff. The federal grant opportunity was announced on May 19, 2021. OBDD provided the Legislature with a notice of its intent to apply for the funding on July 14, 2021. The due date for the grant application was August 17, 2021. Funding awards are anticipated to be made beginning in late November 2021.

Item 20: Oregon Department of Transportation – Transportation Innovation Council

Analyst: Michelle Deister

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the Federal Highway Administration in the amount of \$100,000 to test the utility and longevity of an unconventional paving material.

Analysis: On August 11, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) provided notice of its intent to apply for grant funds, which would fund the use of Ultra High-Performance Concrete on a bridge overlay project currently assumed in ODOT's delivery plans. The trial use of the material will allow ODOT to test and evaluate the concrete's durability and longevity, helping to determine its cost effectiveness and suitability for broader application. ODOT proposes to match the grant award with \$164,943 in highway funds, for a total project cost of \$264,943. The Willow Creek Bridge project on which the material will be utilized is currently assumed in delivery plans. The grant application was due August 7, 2021 and no additional expenditure limitation is required.

Item 21: Oregon Department of Transportation – Advanced Congestion Management Technologies

Analyst: Michelle Deister

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the Federal Highway Administration in the amount of \$2,000,000 to help reduce crashes and improve highway system mobility.

Analysis: On August 11, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) provided notice of intent to apply for the federal grant, which was due on August 23, 2021. ODOT proposes to match the grant with \$2.0 million in State Highway Funds already programed into the Statewide Transportation Improvement program for the purpose of implementing connected vehicle applications. Oregon is currently developing a Connected Vehicle Ecosystem to enable information sharing between vehicles and the highway system utilizing in-vehicle systems and roadside technology. This information will help to provide insights on system use to improve planning, travel times, and reduce crashes. If awarded, the grant and subsequent data collected will also help to improve the design of other projects, such as those that may be subject to road usage charging. No additional position authority or expenditure limitation will be needed.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means approve the requests to apply for federal grants, en bloc, with the understanding that if the funds are awarded the agencies will return to the Legislative Assembly for approval of any necessary Federal Funds or Federal Funds as Other Funds expenditure limitation and position authority.



500 Summer St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-947-2340

350 Winter St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-378-4100

August 23, 2021

The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson, 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

Dear Co-Chairs:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Health Policy and Analytics Division requests retroactive approval to apply for the State Exchange Modernization Grant administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This funding was authorized for the State Based Exchanges and State Based Exchange Federal Partnership states, through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This grant would allow for more ample education, outreach, marketing, and consumer assistance services offered by the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace to be directed at the most vulnerable current and potential marketplace enrollees impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. OHA received the federal notice of funding opportunity on June 21, 2021. The application was due on July 20, 2021.

OHA applied for the full amount allotted to State Based Exchange Federal Partnership states (SBE-FP) of \$800,000 to be used between September 10, 2021, and September 9, 2022. This grant requires no matching funds nor are there requirements for maintenance of effort. OHA would support the grant with existing staff and grant funding would not be used to pay for current staff.

Agency Action

The Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace operates with funding levels calculated to operate the Marketplace and all its programs during non-emergency times. Due to this, our ability to conduct consumer outreach specific to the increased financial assistance opportunities under ARPA has been limited. With additional funding, our certified insurance agents, community partners, community organizations, agency staff, and technological assistance tools could significantly expand outreach, education, and plan selection assistance to consumers impacted by the ongoing and temporary provisions detailed in the ARPA.

With this additional funding, the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace plans to:

- Provide new or increased grant opportunities to community partners who are engaging and assisting Oregonians who are newly eligible for increased financial assistance.
- Offer new grants to selected licensed and specially trained insurance agents to assist consumers with multiple plan changes this year and next due to eligibility changes resulting from this act.
- Provide more complete plan information to consumers by updating the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace's standalone plan display to include an improved provider directory and Spanish translation.
- Use a tracking tool to enable Marketplace staff to track specialized training of agents and community partners and enable agents and community partners to track assistance to their clients with use of the tool.
- Create marketing and advertising campaigns targeting specific Oregon populations most impacted ARPA.

Action Requested

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Health Policy and Analytics Division requests permission to apply for the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services State Exchange Modernization Grant.

Legislation Affected

None.

The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
August 23, 2021
Page 3 of 3

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Allen
Director
Oregon Health Authority



Andrew R. Stolfi
Director
Department of Consumer and
Business Services

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



Office of the Director

Kate Brown, Governor



500 Summer Street NE E20
Salem, OR 97301
Voice: 503-947-2340
Fax: 503-947-2341
TTY: 503-947-5080

August 23, 2021

The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson, 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-Chairs:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Public Health Division is requesting retroactive approval to apply for the Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) cooperative agreement administered by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This is the CDC's main source of funding for climate and health work and has been the primary source of funding for Oregon's Climate and Health program for the last 11 years. This funding would continue and expand the work of OHA's climate and health program established under previous BRACE grants.

The CDC awarded OHA \$400,000 per year for five years in core Climate and Health Program support. (CDC did not award Oregon funding under three optional components for which OHA submitted proposals.) The total award is \$2 million through August 31, 2026, subject to availability of annual federal appropriations. This grant funding does not require state matching funds and does not have a federal requirement for maintenance of effort. The funding will support existing staff positions as described below.

OHA received the federal notice of funding opportunity on April 19, 2021. The application was due on June 18, 2021. OHA submitted a 10-day notification letter June 3, 2021, but it was not considered by a legislative committee during the 2021 legislative session. This letter updates that submittal to reflect the outcome of the CDC's funding decision.

Agency Action

The current five-year competitive funding award concluding August 30, 2021 provided OHA \$217,000 per year and funded one full-time program lead, part of a manager and ancillary activities, all focused on climate adaptation. The new funding starting September 2021 will allow Oregon to further advance collaborative climate and health projects to reduce negative health outcomes, especially among populations most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in Oregon. This cooperative agreement will support Oregon in adopting and expanding strategies that protect and promote public health. It will allow the agency to build upon a decade of climate and health assessment and planning and support the implementation and evaluation of public health interventions in collaboration with community partners across Oregon. This work aligns with OHA's overarching goals to improve social and environmental determinants of health and helps to advance relevant strategies prioritized in OHA's state health improvement plan *Healthier Together Oregon*, including the strategy to "build climate resilience among priority populations."

Projects proposed by the Public Health Division include publishing a new Climate Impact Compendium that summarizes recent climate and health risk data in a user-friendly format and an updated five-year Climate and Health Resilience Plan that provides community-determined climate resilience priorities for Oregon's public health system. The funding will also support the implementation of the interagency Oregon Climate Equity Blueprint, public health strategies in the multi-agency Oregon Climate Change Adaptation Framework, as well as selected recommendations from OHA's forthcoming report on climate change, youth depression and mental health.

Core program work funded by CDC will pay for the following existing positions to achieve the intended cooperative agreement outcomes:

- Operations and Policy Analyst 3 position (0.75 FTE) to lead strategic development of climate adaptation-focused planning, policy and communications.
- Program Analyst 2 (0.50 FTE) to lead program development, project coordination, and tracking/reporting grant deliverables.
- Various other supporting positions (PEMD, OPA3s, RA4) at varying levels (0.05 to .15 FTE).

This funding opportunity supports foundational Environmental Health work to prevent disease and injury, eliminate the disparate impact of environmental health risks and threats on population subgroups, and create health-supportive environments where everyone in Oregon can thrive. The work will further the OHA mission of a healthy Oregon and ensuring all people and communities can achieve optimum physical, mental and social well-being through partnership, prevention and access to quality, affordable health care. It prioritizes health equity, aligning with the OHA strategic plan goal of eliminating health inequities by 2030.

Action Requested

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Public Health Division requests retroactive approval to apply for the CDC Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE): Implementing and Evaluating Adaptation Strategies that Protect and Promote Human Health cooperative agreement.

Legislation Affected

None.

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Allen
Director

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



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Employment Department

875 Union Street NE

Salem, Oregon 97311

(503) 947-1394

TTY-TDD 711

www.Employment.Oregon.gov



August 20, 2021

Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Senator Fred Girod, Vice Co-Chair
Representative David Gombert, Co-Vice Chair
Representative Greg Smith, Co-Vice Chair
Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is requesting retroactive approval to apply for two federal grants in the aggregate amount of \$1,264,460 from the US Department of Labor to improve and promote the Short Time Compensation (STC) Program, known as Work Share in Oregon. A 10-day request to apply letter was filed with this committee on July 2, 2021 and OED is now requesting retroactive approval to apply.

Agency Request

OED wants to participate in two grant opportunities offered by the US Department of Labor, which were received on May 10, 2020 and has a grant application deadline of December 31, 2023. This grant will not require any state match or any additional positions/FTE. The additional expenses itemized in this grant application are covered in the costs of the Modernization project that is already underway at OED. The Department is applying for this grant on August 20th, 2021.

STC is a program employers can use to avoid layoffs. Rather than laying off one group of employees, employers can reduce the hours worked by a larger group of employees. Employees benefit by staying employed, retaining their existing health benefits and receiving unemployment insurance benefits to partially make up for their reduced wages. The employers benefit by retaining a skilled workforce in spite of economic conditions. One of these grant opportunities provides funds for making improvements to STC programs while the other is available to help educate the public about STC so it can be most effectively and widely used to help businesses and workers.

The planned improvements include: 1) increased system efficiency through modernization; 2) self-service accessibility for employers to administer and manage their STC plans; and 3) automatic processing of weekly claim certifications without, or with significantly less, human intervention.

Modernizing program processes will help make the STC tool available to the Oregon workforce system as cost-effectively as possible and it will help Oregon employers understand and apply to the program. These actions will help to lower the overall cost of unemployment, and help support more timely Work Share benefit payments and more ability to rapidly expand the number of people and businesses the Work Share program serves. This and is aligned with OED's mission of supporting business and promoting employment.

The planned promotions include: 1) conducting presentations about the Work Share program to existing and potential employers; 2) create and maintain a database of employer organizations including contact information and meeting dates to ensure Oregon maintains contact with employers who may be interested in Work Share; 3) leverage and monitor outreach tools to ensure timely and adequate responses to employers' needs; 4) utilize tools to promote Work Share to educate and inform employers of the program.

Oregon will also implement an integrity process to ensure program compliance and to review grant effort effectiveness.

Action Requested

Approve the submission of two federal grant applications by the Oregon Employment Department to the US Department of Labor, in a combined amount of up to \$1,264,460, to educate the public and improve the Short Time Compensation (STC) Program, known as the Work Share Program in Oregon.

Legislation Affected

None.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Gerstenfeld", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Gerstenfeld, Acting Director
Oregon Employment Department



725 SUMMER STREET NE, SUITE B | SALEM, OR 97301
503-986-2000 | www.oregon.gov/OHCS

August 23rd, 2021

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

RE: NeighborWorks America Housing Stability Counseling Program Application

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request:

Oregon Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS) is respectfully requesting retroactive approval to apply for grant funds from NeighborWorks America for the Housing Stability Counseling Program (HSCP). The funds come from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which was signed by President Biden in March of this year. NeighborWorks America has set aside \$88.5 million from the \$100 million received for this program. The goal for this funding is to “provide counseling to households facing housing instability, such as eviction, default, foreclosure, loss of income, or homelessness. The application for this grant was due by June 30, 2021. Based on the projected number of households that may need the related counseling service during the program period, the grant application submitted in June 2021 by OHCS, was submitted for \$4,051,400. The final award amount is still pending NeighborWorks America’s decision. However, based on previous applications for this type of funding, OHCS doesn’t expect to receive the full amount requested.

The awarded counseling funds will be distributed to the subgrantees (Homeownership Centers) based on the services they provide to each client. Similar counseling services are currently being provided by OHCS supported Homeownership Center Partners throughout Oregon. The funds from this grant would assist in additional funding to the Homeownership Centers to continue to fund their current programs and services they provide to all Oregonians, specifically for people of color and those at lower income levels. Forty percent of the funds will be provided to grantees that target counseling services to minority and low-income populations facing housing instability.

August 23rd, 2021

Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Page 1 of 3



725 SUMMER STREET NE, SUITE B | SALEM, OR 97301
503-986-2000 | www.oregon.gov/OHCS

The COVID-19 pandemic of this past year has taken a toll on our state and left many Oregon homeowners and renters in dire economic straits. The state's foreclosure and eviction moratoriums, as well as federal mortgage forbearances have helped many families stay in their homes. However, as those protections come to an end, the economic impacts of the pandemic on Oregonians will continue, creating a greater need than ever for services provided through this grant.

Agency Action:

OHCS currently provides funding assistance to Homeownership Centers with funds from the Document Recording Fees (DRF) received in the Home Owner Assistance Program (HOAP). These funds require all Homeownership Centers to provide core services in their communities, including pre-purchase homebuyer education, financial coaching and pre-purchase homebuyer counseling, financial literacy education, and produce homeowners.

The services our Homeownership Centers provide are activities included in the Housing Stability Counseling Program. We are not asking our Homeownership Center Partners to create new programs for this grant, simply continue providing vital services to their communities. In 2020, our Homeownership Centers provided 4,144 clients with counseling and education and provided foreclosure avoidance counseling to an additional 356 individuals. Foreclosure avoidance has become a particularly needed service in the past year. These services are important to all Oregonians wishing to improve their financial situation with credit report review, budget, and financial coaching, and those wishing to purchase a home or retain the home they currently own. This service has proven to be a great tool for homeowners to maintain and keep their homes even during strained financial situations.

There are 29 Oregon counties listed as Targeted Geographic Areas which covers the majority of the state. The remaining counties can also be served with these funds, but the focus for these funds lies within the 29 counties listed in the funding announcement.

The Housing Stability Counseling Program grant will be administered in the same manner as our previous Project Reinvest-Financial Literacy Program, awarded from NeighborWorks America in 2017, as the program requirements for the new grant are the same. It will not be necessary for OHCS to create new procedures for managing this new program. Over the years, the Homeownership Division of OHCS has worked on process improvements and compliance requirements to manage similar counseling programs funded by NeighborWorks America and will continue to use these processes for this grant.



725 SUMMER STREET NE, SUITE B | SALEM, OR 97301
503-986-2000 | www.oregon.gov/OHCS

Action Requested:

Oregon Housing and Community Services submitted the 10-day Federal Grant Application Notification Letter to the Legislative Fiscal Office on June 6th, 2021 and received the initial approval from our LFO analyst and CFO analyst on June 18th, 2021. OHCS then submitted the grant application to NeighborWorks America on June 28th, 2021. In this letter, OHCS is respectfully requesting retroactive approval from the legislature to apply for the Housing Stability Counseling Program offered by NeighborWorks America.

The Housing Stability Counseling Program offers 7% of the first \$2.5 million received under the Counseling category (or up to \$175,000), and 5% of any amount over \$2.5 million for the Grantee for Operational Oversight of the Sub-Grantees. If a Grantee does not wish to use the full amount on Operational Oversight, it can use these funds to provide additional HSCP counseling, however, OHCS intends on using these funds to cover expenses related to managing and oversight of the program. Program Related Support funds shall be used to increase housing stability program efficiencies. If the Applicant does not wish to use the full 30% on eligible PRS activities, it can use these funds to provide additional HSCP counseling, with a minimum of 50% of these funds being distributed to the participating sub-grantees for additional administrative duties such as program compliance, as designated in the funding announcement. OHCS' plan is to distribute 50% of the Program Related Support directly to subgrantees, in two increments, and the remaining 50% will be used by OHCS to support the costs associated with program staff performing required compliance reviews and program reporting to NeighborWorks America. This grant does not require state matching funds.

OHCS currently has seven (7) FTE program staff in the Homeownership Section, with three (3) available to administer this program. Currently staffed; Program Analyst 3, Administrative Assistant 2 and the Assistant Director of Homeownership. As such the program does not require additional staff at this time.

Legislation Affected:

OHCS requests to apply for grant funds would not affect any current statute, appropriation bill, or chapter law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MS", is written over a horizontal line.

Margaret Salazar, Executive Director
Oregon Housing and Community Services

August 23rd, 2021
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Page 3 of 3



August 23, 2021

Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
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 purpose of this letter is to request retroactive approval of the submission of a federal grant application for a broadband infrastructure program. The Oregon Business Development Department (Department) applied for a grant with the United States Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for \$16.47M on August 10, 2021.

Agency Action

Background

The Broadband Infrastructure Program is a \$288M broadband deployment program directed to partnerships between a state, or one or more political subdivisions of a state, and providers of fixed broadband service to support broadband infrastructure deployment to areas lacking broadband, especially rural areas. The Department has identified four fixed broadband providers as partners who will implement approved projects. The providers are Alyrica Network, Inc., OTC Connections, Q-Life Networks, and Ziply Fiber.

The grant does not require cost sharing or matching funds, however the four fixed broadband providers have pledged a total of \$4.04M, representing a match of approximately 25% in order to submit a competitive grant application. The Department has requested a total of 5% in administrative funds to implement the program, which will include funding for up to two limited duration staff.

The Broadband Infrastructure Program will make grants on a competitive basis for covered broadband projects, defined as a competitively and technologically neutral project for the deployment of fixed broadband service that provides qualifying broadband service in an eligible service area. The term "eligible service area" means a census block in which broadband service is not available at one or more households or businesses in the census block. The areas proposed in the application are Benton, Grant, Wasco and Josephine counties. The funding will pay for fiber to 7,185 homes and anchor institutions.

Action Requested

The Department respectfully requests retroactive approval of the submission of a federal grant with the United States Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for a broadband infrastructure program.

Legislation Affected

The request to apply for this grant does not affect current legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sophorn Cheang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sophorn Cheang
Director



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Transportation

Office of the Director

355 Capitol St NE

Salem, OR 97301

August 11, 2021

The Honorable Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Tina Kotek, Co-Chair
Interim Joint Committee on Ways & Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

NATURE OF THE REQUEST

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Transportation Development Division requests retroactive approval to apply for a State Transportation Innovative Council (STIC) incentive grant for \$100,000 (\$100,000 in Federal Funds with \$164,943 in State Highway Fund match) from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

BACKGROUND

The FHWA STIC Incentive program provides resources to help STICs foster a culture of innovation and make innovations standard practice in their states. Through the program, FHWA makes available funding up to \$100,000 per state per federal fiscal year to support or offset the costs of standardizing innovative practices in a state transportation agency or other public sector STIC stakeholder. The program is administered by FHWA's Center for Accelerating Innovation (CAI). The grant application was due August 7, 2021.

STIC Incentive funding may be used to conduct internal assessments; build capacity; develop guidance, standards, and specifications; implement system process changes; organize peer exchanges; offset implementation costs; or conduct other activities the STIC identifies to address Federal Technology and Innovation Deployment Program goals.

ODOT has identified a project that meets program criteria.

Structural Overlay at Willow Creek Bridge

Willow Creek Bridge is located in Lane County at MP 3.03 on OR569 (Beltline Highway). The bridge is 78 feet wide and 49 feet long, a single span, and consists of 19 side-by-side 4-foot pre-stressed concrete slabs. Since the original construction in 1973, two concrete bridge deck overlays were constructed at Willow Creek Bridge. Thin conventional concrete overlays have risks like cracking. These risks can result in short service life as seen in the two previous overlays.

August 11, 2021

Page 2

Ultra High Performance Concrete (UHPC) is the recommended overlay because it has superior bond, strength, and durability properties compared to conventional concrete. The UHPC overlay and stiffening steel beams will provide a better bridge deck system and are anticipated to increase the service life of the structural overlay. In addition, UHPC has been used successfully as a structural overlay material in several states, but not yet in Oregon. Ultimately, this project will help support ODOT's efforts to maintain and provide a reliable transportation system.

Total Project Cost: \$264,943

STIC Request: \$100,000

ODOT's Match: \$164,943

Matching state funds for this project will be provided by ODOT's Statewide Project Delivery Branch.

AGENCY ACTION

ODOT applied for \$100,000 in State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) incentive funds and matching state funds.

ACTION REQUESTED

ODOT requests retroactive approval to submit a grant application to FHWA for \$100,000 in STIC incentive funds and matching funds.

LEGISLATION AFFECTED

None.

Sincerely,



Kristopher W. Strickler
Director, Oregon Department of Transportation



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Transportation

Office of the Director

355 Capitol St NE

Salem, OR 97301

August 12, 2021

The Honorable Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Tina Kotek, Co-Chair
Interim Joint Committee on Ways & Means
900 Court Street NEH-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

NATURE OF THE REQUEST

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Delivery and Operations Division, System and Intelligent Transportation System sections, requests retroactive approval to apply for an Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) grant for \$4.0 million (\$2.0 million in ATCMTD grant funds and \$2.0 million in matching state funds) from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

BACKGROUND

The ATCMTD is a competitive grant program for the development and deployment of advanced transportation technologies at large scale to serve as national models and improve the safety, efficiency, system performance, and infrastructure return on investment. The program requires at least 50 percent in matching funds, and grant funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2024. The Notice of Funding Opportunity for this ATCMTD grant was published on June 22, 2021, and application were due no later than August 23, 2021. The award date has not been announced, but it is anticipated to be near the end of calendar year 2021.

ODOT has identified a project that meets program criteria. Oregon is currently developing a Connected Vehicle Ecosystem (CVE) to enable information sharing between vehicles and the highway system using in-vehicle systems and roadside technology. The CVE will support Road Usage Charging (RUC) and other key agency priorities.

The project to be funded by this grant application is designed to reduce crashes and improve mobility. This grant request leverages the existing RUC project investment to add safety and mobility applications to the CVE.

Combining data from moving connected vehicles, infrastructure, and other data sources will create a powerful ecosystem enabling a connected highway future. Public agencies will be able to gather data and insights on the transportation system and improve planning, management and operations, and significantly reduce crashes, improve travel times, and lower transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. People will enjoy a more reliable and safe transportation experience, and freight providers will experience more predictability and cost savings.

ODOT recently received a \$5 million grant from the FHWA Surface Transportation System Funding Alternatives Program towards a \$10 million project to conduct the initial planning, design, and implementation of the CVE with a focus on RUC. The work being completed for the RUC applications can be leveraged for the safety and mobility applications by using the same platform, thereby reducing costs associated with deploying these multiple applications separately.

The funds from this grant, if awarded, would expand the platform to include:

- Two-way gathering and sharing of data from internet-connected vehicles that utilize the cellular network;
- Vehicles equipped with 5.9 GHz radios;
- ODOT central software systems (e.g., central signal system, active traffic management system, RealTime™); and
- The TriMet Next Generation Central Transit Signal Priority System, which provides transit location, on-time performance, and transit priority calls.

Total Project Cost:	\$4,000,000
Grant Request:	\$2,000,000
Matching Funds:	\$2,000,000

The \$2.0 million in State Highway Fund matching funds are already programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for projects to implement Connected Vehicle applications.

AGENCY ACTION

ODOT applied for \$4.0 million in Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment grant funds and state matching funds.

ACTION REQUESTED

ODOT requests retroactive approval to submit a grant application to FHWA for \$4.0 million in Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment grant funds and state matching funds.

LEGISLATION AFFECTED

None.

Sincerely,



Kristopher W. Strickler
Director, Oregon Department of Transportation