

## ANALYSIS

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

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The following two state agencies seek retroactive approval to submit four grant applications to various federal agencies. Retroactive approval is necessary for grant applications with deadlines that fell before the submittal dates for the November 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.

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#### **Item 3: Higher Education Coordinating Commission – Comprehensive and Accessible Reemployment**

**Analyst:** Doug Wilson

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Labor in the amount of \$3,000,000 over a period of two years to assist dislocated workers.

**Analysis:** The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is seeking retroactive authority to apply for a federal grant from the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor. The grant is funded through the Comprehensive and Accessible Reemployment through Equitable Employment Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant initiative. The purpose of the grant is to assist dislocated workers most affected by the employment and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to be reemployed. HECC will use the funds to enhance online systems that connect dislocated workers to employment-related services by hiring a vendor to develop an electronic Eligible Training Provider List, Performance Reporting system, and a Rapid Response tracking system.

The grant was announced on June 28, 2021 and the application was due August 31. HECC submitted a 10-day notification letter on August 10. There is no state match requirement. HECC received notification on October 1, 2021 that it was not awarded the grant. Since HECC did apply for the federal grant, they still must seek retroactive approval to apply from the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

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#### **Item 4: Higher Education Coordinating Commission – Fostering Access, Rights, and Equity**

**Analyst:** Doug Wilson

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Labor in the amount of \$350,000 over a period of 18 months to assist vulnerable, low-income, and marginalized women workers.

**Analysis:** The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is seeking retroactive authority to apply for a federal Fostering Access, Rights, and Equity (FARE) grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The purpose of the grant is to assist low-income women of color, particularly women who have been

low-paid, underserved, and marginalized, and work in female-dominated sectors hard hit by the pandemic. HECC will work with Oregon Employment Department on this grant. Grant funds will be used for Unemployment Insurance community outreach and assistance, targeting workers with limited English proficiency. The agencies will use the funds to continue, or expand to other areas of the state, a current program with WorkSystems Inc., which is the local Workforce Development Board serving Multnomah and Washington counties. This existing program includes a language access hotline for Unemployment Insurance application assistance.

The grant was announced on June 15, 2021 and the application was due on July 15. HECC submitted a 10-day notification letter on June 24. There is no required state or local match. On September 20, 2021, HECC was awarded \$350,000. Federal funds limitation will be addressed during the 2022 Session.

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#### **Item 5: Higher Education Coordinating Commission – AmeriCorps Volunteer Generation Fund**

**Analyst:** Doug Wilson

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to AmeriCorps in the amount of \$250,000 over a period of one year to increase volunteerism.

**Analysis:** The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is requesting retroactive authority to apply for a 12-month, \$250,000 federal grant from the AmeriCorps program. The grant is through the AmeriCorps Volunteer Generation Fund, which provides funding to state AmeriCorps commissions to expand volunteering, assist in recruiting and retaining skill-based volunteers, and to develop strategies to address community needs. HECC would use the funds to hire one limited duration position to coordinate activities and assist local organizations to manage and increase volunteerism, with a focus on disaster preparedness and response. Grant match would be met with in-kind services and donations.

The grant was announced on May 24, 2021 with applications due on June 23; the grant application was submitted on that date but unfortunately was not accepted since the deadline was not met. HECC submitted a 10-day notification letter on June 10. Since HECC did apply for the federal grant, they still must seek retroactive approval to apply from the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

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#### **Item 6: Oregon Department of Education – Preventing School Violence**

**Analyst:** Doug Wilson

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$2,000,000 over a period of three years to improve school safety and security.

**Analysis:** The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is requesting retroactive authority to apply for a \$2 million federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the U.S. Department of Justice. This is a 36-month grant from the Bureau's Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence grant program. The funds will be used to assist with development of an integrated statewide model of equity in student safety, and will augment existing efforts, specifically in the areas of student behavioral safety concerns and mental health crises. The goal is to expand the relationships between education, mental health, social service, community and cultural-based organizations, and justice system partners.

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Anticipated outcomes from the use of the grant funds include: (1) development of Student Safety Threat Systems support materials; (2) development of implementation guidance for student safety assessment, focusing on equity and cultural responsiveness; (3) additional effective training of existing state/local staff working in this area, and (4) evaluation of student safety efforts. A portion of the funding will be used to hire four limited duration positions (3.16 FTE) at ODE.

The availability of these grant funds was announced on June 2, 2021 and ODE applied for the grant on August 18, 2021. The agency submitted a 10-day notice letter on July 30. There is no state matching requirement and the grant period starts October 1, 2021. As of October 28, 2021, the grant has not been awarded. If the grant is awarded, ODE will return to the Legislature or the Emergency Board for Federal Funds expenditure limitation and position authority.

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**Recommendation:** The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means approve the 4 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.



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Ben Cannon, Executive Director

3225 25th Street SE

Salem, OR 97302

[www.oregon.gov/HigherEd](http://www.oregon.gov/HigherEd)

October 18, 2021

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

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

### **Nature of Request**

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) respectfully requests retroactive permission for the application of the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration's CAREER (Comprehensive and Accessible Reemployment through Equitable Employment Recovery) National Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG) initiative. The funding opportunity was announced June 28, 2021 and is authorized under section 170 of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and administered according to 20 CFR part 687. The application is due before August 31, 2021 with awards being given by September 30, 2021. The period of performance will be two years, with an anticipated start date of September 30, 2021 and end date of September 30, 2023. HECC will apply for the grant by the grant deadline August 31, 2021 and will request \$3,000,000. **HECC received notification on October 1, 2021 that we were not recipients for the grant.**

The original 10-day grant notification was submitted to the Legislative Fiscal Office on August 10, 2021. In addition, an e-board letter was submitted on August 23, 2021 to request retroactive permission from the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee, as those meeting were cancelled this letter is to request the retroactive permission from the Interim Joint Ways & Means Committee in November.

### **Agency Action**

The purpose of the grant is to provide funds to help reemploy dislocated workers most affected by employment and economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. HECC will do so by enhancing online systems and platforms that connect dislocated workers to career, training, and supportive services.

HECC will use grant funds to contract a vendor to build a state-of-the-art electronic Eligible Training Provider List and Performance Reporting system. In order to be eligible to receive WIOA funds, training providers and their programs must be approved by HECC for inclusion on the Eligible Training Provider List. This is a requirement of WIOA statute. This new platform will be both public-facing and have staff/ETP access and controls. Current plans include using cloud-based technology and a modular/component architecture that would allow nearly-infinite customization options.

In addition, HECC will contract with the same vendor to create an enhanced Rapid Response tracking system, built with the same architecture as the ETP Solution, resulting in better coordination, delivery, and

tracking of Rapid Response activities, better alignment with Trade Affected individuals and businesses, and a significant increase in the ability to perform and track outreach efforts to dislocated workers.

This grant would directly support one of the three pillars of the HECC's mission: "Improve Oregon's economic competitiveness and quality of life," as well as the HECC's equity lens.

**Action Requested**

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission requests retroactive permission in the application of the \$3,000,000 of Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration's CAREER DWG grant.

However, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission was not awarded the grant of \$3,000,000. Applications are awarded as they are received and funds were awarded, in full, prior to HECC's application review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ben Cannon".

Ben Cannon  
Executive Director  
Higher Education Coordinating Commission



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Kate Brown, Governor

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The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair  
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court St. NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

### **Nature of Request**

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) respectfully requests retroactive permission for the application of the Department of Labor's Fostering Access, Rights, and Equity (FARE) grant initiative. The funding opportunity was announced June 15, 2021 and is available through FOA-WB-21-02. The application was due on July 15, 2021 and the grant period is to last 18 months, with an anticipated start date of September 30, 2021 and end date of March 31, 2023. HECC applied for the grant on July 14, 2021. **On September 20, 2021 HECC was awarded \$350,000.** We are ready to implement the grant, once we receive funds, estimated in October 2021.

There is no required state match.

The original 10-day grant notification was submitted to the Legislative Fiscal Office on June 24, 2021. In addition, an e-board letter was submitted on August 23, 2021 to request retroactive permission from the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee, as those meeting were cancelled this letter is to request the retroactive permission from the Interim Joint Ways & Means Committee in November.

The purpose of the grant will fund projects that will benefit and assist working women, with a particular focus on low-paid, underserved, and marginalized women workers in female-dominated sectors hard-hit by the pandemic. Grant-funded projects will assist low-income women of color working in Oregon, with a focus on community outreach and enrollment assistance for Unemployment Insurance benefits.

### **Agency Action**

HECC is partnering with the Oregon Employment Department (OED), which will be a critical and primary partner in the HECC's work under this grant. Together, our agencies bring extensive experience in administering adult training programs, managing grants, and providing subject matter expertise on Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Besides our years of experience partnering in workforce services, our agencies have recent experience over the past year in creating new partnerships to provide Unemployment Insurance community outreach and application assistance specifically targeted towards Limited English Proficient (LEP) workers. This 12-month project, which has been conducted in partnership with several community-based organizations under the WorkSystems, Inc. umbrella, created a language access hotline for Unemployment Insurance application assistance to supplement OED's main hotlines. This project has been an incredible success in serving over 9,500 Oregonians, 47% of whom have been women of color. As the Oregon labor force is only 23% people of color overall, this project shows great success in reaching women of color.

HECC and OED intend to use grant funds to expand on the success of this project by either extending the project (it is currently scheduled to end in summer 2021) or initiating similar projects with other community-based organizations. For example, OED has also partnered over the past few months with 6 community-based organizations who conduct outreach at churches, vaccination sites, and other venues to assist LEP workers in learning about and accessing unemployment insurance benefits. This program has also served an astounding 47% women of color, making it a second ideal option for meeting the goals of the FARE initiative. HECC and OED are also committed to using grant funds to expand awareness of Unemployment Insurance for underserved and marginalized working women.

This grant would directly support one of the three pillars of the HECC's mission: "Improve Oregon's economic competitiveness and quality of life," as well as the HECC's equity lens.

**Action Requested**

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission requests retroactive permission in the application of the \$350,000 Department of Labor's Fostering Access, Rights, and Equity (FARE) grant.

HECC does need additional federal limitation to fulfill the intent of the award.

Sincerely,



Ben Cannon  
Executive Director  
Higher Education Coordinating Commission



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

3225 25th Street SE

Salem, OR 97302

[www.oregon.gov/HigherEd](http://www.oregon.gov/HigherEd)

October 18, 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  
State Emergency Board  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

### **Nature of Request**

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) respectfully requests retroactive permission for the application of the AmeriCorps Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) grant. The funding opportunity was announced on May 24, 2021 and was available via CFDA Number 94.02. The application was due on June 23, 2021 and the grant period was for 12 months or October 1, 2021 thru October 1, 2022. HECC applied for the grant on June 23, 2021. **HECC received notification on June 25, 2021 that we were not recipients for the grant.**

There is no required state match.

The original 10-day grant notification was submitted to the Legislative Fiscal Office June 10, 2021. In addition, an e-board letter was submitted on August 23, 2021 to request retroactive permission from the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee, as those meeting were cancelled this letter is to request the retroactive permission from the Interim Joint Ways & Means Committee in November.

### **Agency Action**

Oregon Volunteers (OV), operating within the HECC, is the state commission for AmeriCorps in Oregon. The VGF grant provides funding to state commissions to support effective approaches that expand volunteering, strengthen the capacity of volunteer organizations to recruit and retain skill-based volunteers, and develop strategies to effectively address community needs. HECC is applying for \$250,000 in federal funds, for which OV is automatically eligible as the state service commission. The first year of the grant requires a twenty-percent match of \$50,000 and the second year of the grant requires a thirty-percent match of \$75,000, which may be provided through in-kind donations and services. The funding would be utilized to hire one Limited Duration Program Analyst 3 (1.0 FTE) to coordinate and deliver activities. The VGF grant is a two-year grant, with second-year funding based on availability of funds and performance. There are no maintenance of effort requirements associated with the grant.

OV will use the funds specifically to increase the capacity of local organizations to effectively manage volunteers and increase volunteerism across Oregon, with a focus on disaster preparedness and response, through 1) implementation of statewide recruitment tools, 2) development of a communication and response plan for national service and unaffiliated volunteers, and, in partnership with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM), 3) bring much needed donations and volunteer management training to community organizations, prioritizing communities historically underserved, and disproportionately affected by disaster. The VGF grant supports the goals and strategies identified in Oregon Volunteers' required 2022-2024 State Service Plan, and advances OV's ability to facilitate coordination of national and community service disaster response activities, a responsibility OV is assigned under OEM's Comprehensive Emergency Management



Plan - Support Function 16: Volunteers and Donations. OV's mission is to advance volunteerism, service and civic engagement to enrich lives and strengthen Oregon communities. This grant will enable OV to address critical community needs, especially in communities where systemic inequities and unmet resource needs have hindered disaster recovery efforts, and will further support HECC's goal to achieve economic and community impact.

**Agency Requested**

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission originally planned on requesting for retroactive permission in the application of the \$250,000 application of the AmeriCorps Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) grant.

However, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission was not awarded the grant because the application was submitted after the deadline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ben Cannon".

Ben Cannon  
Executive Director



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



**OREGON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**EDUCATION**

*Oregon achieves.....together!*

**Colt Gill**

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

October 18, 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:

### **Request to Apply for Federal Funding**

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) respectfully requests approval of an intent to apply for a federal grant up to \$2,000,000 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), for the Student, Teachers, and Officer Preventing (STOP) School Violence Grant Program. The grant application is due to BJA by August 16, 2021. This item was held over from the September Legislative Days calendar.

On June 2, 2021 the BJA announced the availability for state governments to apply up to \$2,000,000 for the Student, Teachers, and Officer Preventing (STOP) School Violence Grant Program to improve efforts of reducing violence in and around K-12 school settings. If awarded, the grant start date is October 1, 2021, for duration of 36 months. As of October 15, it appears there is a delay in the awarding of these grants, and a decision at the federal level isn't expected until December 2021.

### **Agency Action**

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is interested in submitting an application for the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Grant Program. BJA resources will assist Oregon in developing an integrated, statewide model of equity in student safety. Over the past several decades in Oregon, school safety policies and practices have been developed to address increasing numbers of student behavioral safety concerns and mental health crises. Until recently, these systems have largely relied on dyadic partnerships between education and law enforcement agencies which have produced strong, evidence-based results. We can now expand on those outcomes through integrating the increasing understanding of the importance of equity, particularly racial equity, as well as mental health, in student safety throughout the threat assessment process. This grant opportunity would allow Oregon to expand the breadth of approaches to student safety systems, the depth of engagement with mental health and social service agencies, as well as support the protection of student Civil Rights in safety policies and practices.

This statewide system would deepen and expand relationships between education, mental health, social service, community and cultural based organizations, affinity groups, and justice system partners—at

**Oregon Department of Education**

255 Capitol St NE, Salem, OR 97310 | Voice: 503-947-5600 | Fax: 503-378-5156 | [www.oregon.gov/ode](http://www.oregon.gov/ode)

the state, regional, and local levels. Oregon is well-poised to lead this work, both from an implementation and from a policy viewpoint. The passage of Oregon’s landmark Student Success Act (SSA, 2019) helped establish a School Safety and Prevention System (SSPS) designed to implement a comprehensive approach to student safety—including behavioral safety (threat) assessment, suicide prevention, and bullying, harassment, and intimidation prevention which has been underway for more than a year statewide. Further, SSA legislation requires the SSPS to develop through culturally responsive community engagement that is designed to prevent disproportionate justice system impacts for students of color and historically and currently underserved students (OAR 581-029-001).

Implementation began during school year 2020 - 2021 through the hiring of 11 SSPS Specialists based at Education Service Districts (ESDs) statewide. These individuals have been provided comprehensive student safety system training including trauma-informed, strengths-based, equity and racial equity-centered, and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)-oriented approaches to student safety systems through the ODE Integrated Model of Mental Health (IMMH). They have begun operationalizing the model to engage mental health, justice system, affinity group, and social service partners in the development of regional systems including behavioral safety assessment teams, crisis response flights teams (suicide postvention), and professional learning communities. ODE Safe & Inclusive Schools team has provided implementation support through the development of an ODE-OHA suicide prevention partnership to further support an integrated student crisis response system. That partnership provides an additional 5 new statewide positions (4 regional leaders and 1 program manager) to assist in the implementation of *Adi’s Act* (ORS 339.343, OAR 581-022-2510), which requires that all school districts have comprehensive and culturally responsive student suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention plans.

#### *Projected Outcomes*

BJA support through the (STOP) School Violence Grant Program will provide the resources to help develop integrated student safety systems in Oregon and a national model for centering equity and racial equity in student safety. Projected outcomes through the BJA grant include:

- 4 ODE limited duration employees (3 years at Program Analyst 4 level) dedicated to partnership with 11 ESDs as a training and technical assistance resource
- The development of Student Safety (Threat) Systems support materials: Culturally Responsive Behavioral Safety Assessment Guidance, Student Safety & Civil Rights Toolkit, SSPS Family and Community-based Partnerships Toolkit
- Development of implementation guidance for supplemental forms for student safety (threat) assessment process to center equity and cultural responsiveness as well as mental health, equity and racial equity
- Measurable impact of the BJA staff on the training and development of Behavioral Safety Assessment Teams (11 ESDs), Crisis Response Flight Teams (at least 4 ESDs), and Student Safety Professional Learning Communities (at least 3 ESDs)
- Measurable impact of the BJA staff on the implementation of Oregon student safety legislation: *School Safety and Prevention System* (Section 36 of SSA), *Senate Bill 52* (*Adi’s Act*, requiring school district suicide prevention plans), *Every Student Belongs* (prohibiting the display of hate symbols in Oregon schools), and *Carson’s Law* (requiring family notification of bullying)
- Measured effectiveness of BJA program training, provided to ESDs, their constituent school districts, and community partners (including mental health, affinity group, law enforcement, and social services)
- Through an evaluation focus group, measured school building administrator engagement with district safety policy and equity in decision-making
- Measured building administrator student safety engagement with school-community System of Care partners

#### **Oregon Department of Education**

## ODE BJA Draft Deliverables Timeline, 2021-23

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	System Outcomes
Hire 4 BJA staff (ODE)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 ODE LD Program Analyst 4: Behavioral Safety Systems Specialist, Student Safety &amp; Civil Rights Specialist, Student Safety Systems Evaluation Specialist, and Transformative Justice Specialist</li> <li>Resource for 11 ESD partners &amp; districts statewide</li> </ul>
Develop strategic program plan	BJA/ODE/ESD monitoring/reporting	BJA/ODE/ESD monitoring/reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>System goals</li> <li>Performance measures</li> </ul>
Develop training program (Safety Assessment; Student Safety & Civil Rights)	Implement training program in ESDs & school districts	Establish train-the-trainer model through ESDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable student safety systems infrastructure (measurable impact on Safety Assessment &amp; Crisis Response team development) and</li> <li>Long-term regional training capacity</li> </ul>
Provide technical assistance toward development of student safety systems district policies and teams ( <i>Every Student Belongs; Adi's Act; Carson's Act</i> )	Update ODE/SIS Guidance	Update ODE/SIS Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measurable impact on policy development &amp; implementation</li> <li>Impact on development of district &amp; regional team MOUs</li> </ul>

Development of student Safety Systems support materials: Student Safety & Civil Rights Toolkit, Family & Community Based Partnerships Toolkit, Mental Health Considerations in School Safety Toolkit, Upstream Prevention and MH Toolkit, Transformative Justice Training	Implementation of BSAT forms; Implementation of Student Safety & Civil Rights Toolkit	Update ODE/SIS forms & guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ODE culturally responsive student safety guidance and implementation support materials</li> </ul>
Develop program evaluation structure (evaluation of the perceptions of and outcome measures relevant to school building administrators)	Data collection & reporting	Data collection & final reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measured effectiveness of program training &amp; resources</li> <li>• Measured engagement with school district policy &amp; equity in decision-making</li> <li>• Measured engagement with School community System of Care</li> </ul>
Develop BJA program advisory	Supports updated ODE/SSPS guidance	Supports ODE/SSPS student safety systems sustainability plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened ODE Safety Systems guidance</li> <li>• Sustainability plan (OR)</li> </ul>

### **Action Requested**

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) respectfully requests permission to apply for a federal grant up to \$2,000,000 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), for the Student, Teachers, and Officer Preventing (STOP) School Violence Grant Program.

**Legislation Affected**

None at this time.

Thank you for considering the approval of this intent to apply request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Colt Gill", with a horizontal line underneath.

Colt Gill  
Agency Director