

Analysis

Oregon Health Authority

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems

Analyst: Tom MacDonald

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application from the Oregon Health Authority to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of up to \$255,600 per year for five years for integrating early developmental health and family well-being systems of care.

Analysis: The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) requests approval to apply for a federal Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant of up to \$255,600 per year for five years to increase state capacity to integrate and strengthen maternal and early childhood systems that promote early developmental health for the prenatal to age three population (P-3). The key goals of the grant are to:

- Increase the number of families and professional leaders engaged in state-level maternal and early childhood initiatives;
- Develop a cross-sector state-level maternal and early childhood strategic plan that integrates health with other P-3 systems;
- Increase the participation of health providers in coordinated intake and referral systems or other centralized intake and data coordination efforts for the maternal and P-3 populations; and
- Establish P-3 health equity goals in the statewide early childhood strategic plan.

OHA would use most of the funding for two positions, a program lead, which is required by the grant, and a Family Engagement Specialist to support parents who decide to partner with OHA in the maternal and early childhood initiatives supported by the grant. Some of the required activities these positions would do include: conducting an analysis of system gaps; identifying opportunities to advance integrated maternal and early childhood systems; enhancing the state's early childhood strategic plan; identifying strategies that promote early developmental health; increasing family engagement in decision-making and early childhood program design; and improving equity within early childhood systems.

The grant application is due March 15, 2021 for the five-year grant period beginning August 1, 2021. The grant does not include a direct service component and there is no state match or cost-sharing requirement. If OHA receives an award, the agency will return to the Legislature for position authority and expenditure limitation, as needed.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: Approve the request.

Oregon Health Authority Heath

Request: Authorize the Oregon Health Authority to apply for a five year, \$1.3 million Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) requests approval to apply for a five year, \$1,278,000 Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems federal grant from HRSA. The grant application is due on March 15, 2021, and OHA submitted its 10-day grant notification letter on March 1, 2021. The grant will be used to further build out Oregon's maternal and early childhood systems of care so they are equitable, sustainable, comprehensive, and inclusive of the health system through strategic planning and policy development.

The grant focuses on planning activities to strengthen cross-sector state-level maternal and early childhood strategic plans that integrate health with other systems and programs. Other goals include increased family engagement in maternal and early childhood initiatives, increased participation of health providers in coordinated intake and referral systems for the maternal and prenatal-to-3 year old population, and the establishment of health equity goals in the statewide early childhood strategic plan.

OHA plans to use the grant funds to hire two Operations and Policy Analyst 3 positions, one to serve as the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Lead to direct the grant activities and one to act as a Family Engagement Specialist to assure adequate parent participation in planning for service improvements.

The grant has no match or maintenance of effort requirement. Should the grant be awarded, OHA may need to request Federal Funds expenditure limitation and position authority from the Legislature to implement the grant.



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 1, 2021

The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Vice 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 Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant administered by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This new funding opportunity would increase Oregon's ability to develop inclusive, equitable, integrated maternal and early childhood systems of care that promote early developmental health, family well-being and increase family-centered care for the prenatal to age three population.

The grant would fund up to \$255,600 per year for five years, for a total award amount of \$1,278,000 through July 31, 2026. This grant requires no matching funds or maintenance of effort. The grant opportunity requires hiring or assigning a full-time state-level lead to support statewide early childhood system leadership capacity. An additional full-time position would be necessary to meet grant expectations to promote leadership development among parent and community partners.

OHA received the request for proposals on December 11, 2020. Applications are due on March 15, 2021.

Agency Action

The purpose of this grant is to further build integrated maternal and child health systems of care that are equitable, sustainable, comprehensive, that promote early developmental health and family well-being and increase family-centered access to

care and engagement of the prenatal to age three population (P-3). This work would occur at both the state and local levels.

Oregon is well positioned to further this work due to efforts currently underway. At the state level, the *Raise Up Oregon* early childhood strategic plan offers a framework and blueprint on how to coordinate and leverage opportunities across sectors and provides a common vision for promoting health equity, early developmental health and family well-being. Oregon's Title V program provides opportunities to promote policy and financing strategies that support the sustainability of multi-generational, preventive services and systems for the P-3 population, which includes work with Medicaid and commercial payors. This funding opportunity would provide much needed capacity to further these efforts.

Current initiatives such as Universally offered Home Visiting, Integrated Care for Kids, and Help Me Grow offer opportunities to strengthen local systems of care. Key elements of these efforts are to address health equity and better coordinate and align health and early childhood systems to deliver and effectively connect families to a continuum of services that promote early developmental health and family well-being. This grant would elevate capacity for engaging families and communities at the local level, provide participation and leadership capacity building, and ensure families and communities with lived experience and most impacted by racism and lack of access to care and services are co-creating systems of care that serve their communities.

Grant funds would support two full-time positions (2.0 FTE): an Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Lead and a Family Engagement Specialist. These two positions would work together to address both state and local work as described above.

This funding opportunity furthers the OHA mission of a healthy Oregon and the mission of 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. By working upstream with the P-3 populations, this opportunity works towards improving lifelong health by improving the trajectory of health in families and communities and reducing overall lifetime health care costs.

The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Rayfield Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
March 1, 2021
Page 3 of 3

Action Requested

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Public Health Division requests permission to apply for the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant administered by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau within HRSA.

Legislation Affected

None.

For additional information, please contact Cate Wilcox, Maternal and Child Health Section Manager at 971-207-1689 or cate.s.wilcox@state.or.us.

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