

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2949 - A

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*Prepared by: Kim To
Reviewed by: Tom MacDonald
Date: April 14, 2021**Measure Description:**

Creates Behavioral Health Incentive Subaccount in the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund. Requires Oregon Health Authority to provide incentives to increase the recruitment and retention of providers in the behavioral health care workforce with associated, bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees or other credentials who are people of color, tribal members or residents of rural areas who can provide culturally responsive behavioral health services.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2021-23 Biennium	2023-25 Biennium
General Fund		
Personal Services	3,400,730	3,426,958
Services and Supplies	750,249	754,169
Special Payments	195,849,021	To Be Determined
Total General Fund	\$200,000,000	\$4,181,127
Positions	18	18
FTE	17.88	18.00

Analysis:

HB 2949 A-Engrossed appropriates a total of \$200,000,000 General Fund to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for the following purposes:

- \$110,000,000 General Fund for deposit into the Behavioral Health Incentive Subaccount. The measure creates the Behavioral Health Incentive Subaccount in the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund and continuously appropriates moneys in the Subaccount to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide incentives to increase the recruitment and retention of providers in the behavioral health care workforce with associate, bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees or other credentials who are people of color, tribal members or residents of rural areas who can provide culturally responsive behavioral health services.
- \$20,000,000 General Fund to provide funding to counties, community mental health programs and organizations to provide new or to increase existing transition services to individuals who are being reintegrated into the community following incarceration, to ensure that the reintegrating individuals have access to mental health care.
- \$20,000,000 General Fund to establish a program to provide grants to licensed psychologists, licensed marriage and family therapists, licensed professional counselors and licensed clinical social workers to provide supervised clinical experience to as-associates or other individuals who have the necessary

education but need supervised clinical experience to obtain a license to practice. OHA is directed to distribute \$7,000,000 each to county mental health programs and to private practitioners.

- \$50,000,000 to provide grants to community mental health programs and private practitioners to ensure access to mental health care for individuals in underserved communities who have faced disproportionate challenges from the impacts of COVID-19 including individuals who are tribal members, Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC); undocumented immigrants; residents in rural areas of Oregon.

In addition, the measure requires public or private entity that employs mental health care providers who supervise associates, interns or other individuals who must have supervised clinical experience as a condition of licensure as a mental health care provider to pay all costs incurred by the supervisor in providing supervision and the costs of the individual receiving supervision if the supervisor is a licensed psychologist, a clinical social worker, a master's social worker, a licensed marriage and family therapists or a licensed professional counselor. The measure contains an emergency clause and takes effect on July 1, 2021.

This fiscal analysis assumes that "to be expended to carry out" includes administrative and operational costs which OHA estimates to be \$4,150,979 General Fund, 18 positions, 17.88 FTE for the 2021-23 biennium; and \$4,181,127 General Fund, 18 positions, 17.88 FTE for the 2023-25 biennium. These costs reflect personal services and related services and supplies to staff the four new programs as follows:

Behavioral Health Provider Incentive Program -

- One Equity Coordinator (1.0 FTE) Operations and Policy & Analyst 3 position to liaise with the Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI), Tribal Affairs and other groups to ensure programs are operational within an equity lens and support evolving best practices within this work.
- Two Pipeline Specialists (2.0 FTE) Operations and Policy & Analyst 3 positions to work with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), Workforce Boards, the Oregon Education Department (OED), K-12, Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) and training schools to develop a pipeline from the K-12 system into training programs for a diverse student and young adult population.
- One Student Support Coordinator (1.0 FTE) Operations and Policy & Analyst 3 position to work with training programs and students to help ensure student success and completion of training.
- One Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Support (FTE 1.0) Operations and Policy & Analyst 3 position to provide outreach, technical assistance and administrative support around the loan repayment program that could engage as many as 300 clinicians of color.
- One Clinical Practice Environment Coordinator (1.0 FTE) Operations & Policy Analyst 3 position to expand the number and ensure the quality of sites where clinicians of color are practicing is a supportive environment for the clinicians doing their best work
- Two Behavioral Health -BIPOC Grant Program Coordinators (2.0 FTE) Operations and Policy & Analyst 3 positions to oversee mini-grants and incentives to support clinicians of color, and from tribal communities to be retained in areas with larger, more diverse populations.
- One Data Support (1.0 FTE) Research Analyst 3 position to provide analytic support, evaluation and consultation to the Clinical Supports Integrations, and Workforce (CSIW) Unit on the impact of the totality of effort, including mapping and reporting of data.
- Four (3.5 FTE) Administrative Specialist 2 positions to support the work defined above, including but not limited to assisting with contracts, support meetings and other administrative tasks that will support the new BH Subaccount.

Program to assist to individuals who are being reintegrated into the community following incarceration -

- One Operations and Policy & Analyst 3 position (1.0 FTE) to oversee the program.

Program to ensure clinical supervisory experiences for behavioral health professionals -

- One Student Support Coordinator (FTE 1.0) Operations and Policy & Analyst 3 positions to work with public and private schools, training programs, and practice sites (including hospitals) to locate and provide incentives for adequate clinical supervision and oversee grant efforts to county programs and private providers.

- One Administrative Specialist 2 (0.5 FTE - Combined this 0.5 FTE to 0.5 FTE Administrative Specialist 2 position supporting section 2) to support the work defined above, including but not limited to assisting with administrative tasks that will support the new this new work.

Program to ensure behavioral health services to communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19 -

- Two Behavioral Health Grant Program Coordinators (2.0 FTE) Operations & Policy & Analyst 3 positions that will administer a grant program to expand access to behavioral health services by individuals from groups particularly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, through an RFP process available to Community Mental Health Programs (CMHPs), non-profits, and private providers.
- One (1.0 FTE) Administrative Specialist 2 position to support the work defined above, including but not limited to include tracking grants, assisting in contracting process and other administrative duties needed to support the grant program.

Funds will be appropriated as General Fund and expended as Other Funds; the amount in the Special Payments line item may be spread out between the 2021-23 and 2023-25 biennia. The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that although the measure creates new ongoing programs and establishes a new Fund that is continuously appropriated to OHA, the measure appropriates \$110 million General Fund for deposit to the Behavioral Health Incentive Subaccount as a onetime appropriation in the 2021-23 biennium. It is unknown whether or not loan repayments would be sufficient to cover the cost of the program in future biennia. LFO assumes that funding for this program for 2023-25 and future biennium will be addressed through the biennial budgeting process for the agency.

This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of General Fund impact.