

# House Bill 4117

Sponsored by Representatives RUIZ, WILLIAMS, Senator GORSEK, Representatives BYNUM, CAMPOS, LIVELY; Representatives ALONSO LEON, HUDSON, PHAM, REARDON, Senators JAMA, KENNEMER, LAWRENCE SPENCE (Presession filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Department of Human Services to adopt by rule grant program to provide funding to culturally specific and responsive organizations, tribal governments and under-resourced rural community service organizations to conduct outreach regarding federal earned income tax credits and other tax benefits and to provide tax navigation and preparation services to low-income Oregonians. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to services for low-income individuals; and prescribing an effective date.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Human Services shall adopt by rule a grant program**  
5 **to provide funding for the purposes described in subsections (2) and (3) of this section to**  
6 **culturally specific and responsive organizations, tribal governments and under-resourced**  
7 **rural community service organizations.**

8 (2) **Grants must be used to help low-income residents of this state by:**

9 (a) **Providing education about federal earned income tax credits and other tax benefits**  
10 **available to low-income individuals;**

11 (b) **Assisting residents in navigating tax systems; and**

12 (c) **Filing income tax returns.**

13 (3) **The grants must be used to:**

14 (a) **Strengthen the existing network of culturally specific and responsive tax preparation**  
15 **organizations;**

16 (b) **Expand organizational capacity in geographically diverse areas of this state to im-**  
17 **prove access to tax navigation and tax preparation services;**

18 (c) **Improve the recruitment and retention of qualified tax preparers;**

19 (d) **Strengthen the technology resources and training systems available to tax preparers**  
20 **and volunteers; or**

21 (e) **Strengthen taxpayer outreach, education and connections to communities by cul-**  
22 **turally specific and responsive tax navigation and preparation service providers.**

23 (4) **The department shall appoint a committee to advise the department in the adoption**  
24 **of rules for the program. The advisory committee must include one or more individuals who:**

25 (a) **Are low-income.**

26 (b) **Are Black.**

27 (c) **Are Indigenous.**

28 (d) **Are people of color.**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (e) Are non-English-speaking.

2 (f) Have a disability.

3 (g) Are 65 years of age or older.

4 **SECTION 2.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-  
5 ated to the Department of Human Services, for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, out of the  
6 General Fund, the amount of \$4,000,000, which may be expended to carry out the provisions  
7 of section 1 of this 2022 Act.

8 **SECTION 3.** This 2022 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2022  
9 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

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