

ANALYSIS

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

The following state agencies seek retroactive approval to submit grant applications to various federal agencies. Retroactive approval is necessary for grant applications with deadlines that fell before the submittal dates for the September 2023 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 10: Oregon Health Authority – Menthol Reduction

Analyst: Matt Stayner

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in the amount of up to \$3,750,000 over a period of five years to reduce the burden of menthol and other flavored commercial tobacco products in communities that experience health disparities.

Analysis: If awarded, the grant will provide the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) up to \$750,000 per year to support efforts to reduce the use and impact of menthol and other flavored tobacco among youth and populations experiencing tobacco-related disparities. The requested grant amount represents a ceiling of grant funding available, with a floor of \$300,000 per year and an average anticipated annual grant of \$400,000. No state matching funds are required. The application deadline was July 6, 2023. A 10-day letter providing notice of the agency's intent to apply for the federal grant was submitted June 23, 2023. The agency intends to use funding awarded to pursue four distinct strategies outlined in the grant opportunity. OHA indicates the possible need for additional position authority related to the grant funding and that specific position and program needs will be finalized once the final grant award is made.

Item 11: Oregon Health Authority – Emerging Contaminants

Analyst: Matt Stayner

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the amount of \$9,940,000 over a period of one year to fund infrastructure projects addressing public health risks related to emerging contaminants.

Analysis: The federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 provided supplemental funding to state drinking water and clean water revolving fund programs through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The subject of this request is a \$9.94 million allotment for the 2022 federal fiscal year to address emerging contaminants, particularly polyfluoroalkyl substances, manganese, and cyanotoxins

through investment in safe drinking water infrastructure. This funding is for the first of five years, with a total of \$55.9 million to be allocated in annual increments by the EPA. The grant application deadline was July 31, 2023. A 10-day letter providing notification of the agency's intent to apply for the funds was provided on July 13, 2023. The standard Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund rules apply to the funding except that the entire amount of this additional funding may be used to provide forgivable loans (subsidies) and grants, 25% must be provided to disadvantaged communities or public water systems serving fewer than 25,000 people, and no state matching funds are required. Total funding includes set-asides for administrative costs, state program administration, and technical assistance. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will seek additional position authority, if necessary, for program administration, project review, and grant administration. Additional position authority may be also sought by the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) and anticipated increased funding for the general Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SDWSRF), as OBDD jointly administers the SDWSRF program under an inter-agency agreement with OHA.

Item 12: Department of Human Services – SNAP Data and Technical Assistance

Analyst: Gregory Jolivette

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, in the amount of \$1,500,000 over a period of three years to collaborate with the Oregon Employment Department to improve Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program data and data practices.

Analysis: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants who are not specifically exempted by statute are subject to various work requirements as a condition of eligibility. For example, they are required to register for work, participate in employment and training programs, and take a suitable job if offered. States are required to operate a SNAP Employment and Training program to help participants gain greater economic stability. The purpose of the federal Data and Technology Assistance grants is to (1) support the development of state SNAP employment and training data collection systems; and (2) enhance states' ability to review and analyze program services and outcomes for continuous program improvement. If awarded, the Department of Human Services (DHS) will pass through all funding to the Oregon Employment Department (OED), which will be responsible for managing the grant while partnering with DHS. Planned activities include, among others, identifying areas of improvement in data collection and analysis, building a data dictionary and business glossary, and implementing new ways of using and tracking data. OED anticipates it would need one limited duration position in the Workforce Operations Division. DHS provided a timely 10-day notification on June 13, 2023 and the application deadline was June 27, 2023. No state match is required.

Item 13: Department of Human Services – SNAP Process and Technology Improvement

Analyst: Gregory Jolivette

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, in the amount of up to \$2,000,000 over a period of three years, to improve the experience and reduce barriers for individuals applying through the ONE online application portal.

Analysis: The ONE eligibility system allows people to apply for medical, food, cash, and childcare benefits online, by phone, or in-person with one application. A part of this application process, which is administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS), involves verification of the applicant’s identity, or “identity proofing.” According to DHS, some groups of individuals experience challenges with identity proofing, particularly certain immigrant parents and people with a limited credit history or inaccuracies in the data used for identity proofing. To help address these issues, DHS is applying for a federal grant available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture for making system modifications that improve access to the full range of benefits available to these individuals and families. Since DHS submitted its grant application request letter, the agency has refined the estimated project costs. Based on the estimate, the agency applied for a total of \$598,894. If awarded, the funds will be used to contract with an information technology services vendor for modifications to the ONE eligibility system. No state match is required and the department will not need additional positions. The agency provided a timely 10-day notification on June 2, 2023 and the application deadline was June 15, 2023.

Item 14: Department of Human Services – Sexual Risk Avoidance Education

Analyst: Gregory Jolivette

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, in the amount of \$450,000, to support the translation and adaptation of middle school sexual education curriculum across Oregon and help identify areas with elevated rates of teen dating violence and sexually transmitted infections.

Analysis: In collaboration with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA), the Department of Human Services (DHS) administers a program called My Future My Choice. This program is a ten-part education series that meets the 6th-grade requirements of Oregon’s Health Education Standards to provide age-appropriate sexuality education as an integral part of the health education curriculum. The curriculum aims to provide middle-school students with tools to have healthy relationships and includes topics such as setting and respecting boundaries and treating each other with respect and dignity. It also teaches skills to resist peer and social pressure, as well as how to prevent sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy. The ongoing source of funding for My Future My Choice is a federal Title V Sexual Risk Avoidance Education formula grant, from which Oregon receives approximately \$500,000 annually. The current request is for permission to apply for a discretionary, competitive grant that will support one-time activities to enhance the base program. This is the agency’s first time applying for the discretionary grant. If awarded, the grant will support two limited-duration positions and one-time grants of \$15,000 to \$25,000 to approximately six subgrantees over three years. The agency provided a timely 10-day notification on July 5, 2023 and the application deadline was July 18, 2023. The grant does not request a state match.

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.



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon
Health
Authority

500 Summer St. NE E-20

Salem, OR 97301

Voice: 503-947-2340

Fax: 503-947-2341

www.oregon.gov/oha

August 21, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Interim 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 requests retroactive permission to apply for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) “Outcomes Building Capacity to Reduce the Burden of Menthol and Other Flavored Commercial Tobacco Products in Communities that Experience Health Disparities” 5-year grant opportunity (CDC-RFA-DP-23-0019) to expand activities addressing disparities caused by menthol and other flavored tobacco products. This grant opportunity would provide OHA up to \$750,000 in federal funds annually over five years, beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2028, for a total of up to \$3,750,000 over the grant performance period. This grant opportunity does not require state matching funds.

OHA was notified of the grant opportunity on May 8, 2023, and the grant application was successfully submitted on the due date, July 6, 2023. OHA provided 10 day notice on June 23, 2023. The request for retroactive authorization is in alignment with the Legislature’s process requirements in effect at the time of the grant application, which resulted in OHA submitting the request letter during the interim legislative days.

The purpose of this CDC funding opportunity supports OHA’s 2030 goal of ending health inequities through strategic partnerships and community engagement by addressing disparities caused by menthol and other flavored tobacco product marketing and use. Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in Oregon, and the burden of tobacco-related disease and death is not spread equitably across the population. In Oregon, the burden of menthol cigarettes falls most heavily on youth and African Americans. While 20% of all Oregon adults who smoke use menthol, 45% of Oregon 11th graders who currently smoke cigarettes use menthol, as do 60% of African American adults in Oregon who smoke.

Awareness of the harms of flavored tobacco products, including menthol, and culturally specific cessation options for populations most likely to use flavored tobacco products are key strategies to promote health equity. Accordingly, this program from CDC aims to:

- Engage diverse partners to support social, economic, and community change to increase awareness of the harms of menthol and other flavored tobacco product use and availability of cessation services. Includes completing a gaps analysis to identify populations that experience the most harm from flavored tobacco products.
- Educate the public, community leaders, partners, and decision makers on how to reduce menthol tobacco use. Includes engaging community and youth spokespersons on how to reach populations most at risk for menthol and other flavored tobacco product use.
- Implement culturally appropriate interventions tailored for community needs to prevent and reduce menthol and other flavored tobacco product use. Includes piloting novel interventions to support cessation and working with non-traditional partners to support cessation.
- Use research, surveillance, and evaluation to measure progress made in reducing tobacco use and menthol tobacco-related disparities and inform public health action.

The tobacco product and regulatory landscape has changed rapidly over the last decade. Accordingly, OHA has shifted its approach and interventions to address flavored product use at the local level through funding to community-based organizations and Local Public Health Authorities. This grant opportunity will leverage existing OHA work on flavored tobacco products, including menthol, and provide access to national organizations with similar equity priorities. It will help OHA and its partners understand the barriers certain communities face when it comes to reducing use of flavored tobacco products, particularly menthol. It supports OHA's ability to identify and address the needs of groups that bear a disproportionate burden of poor health related to tobacco-related harm and nicotine addiction.

Agency Action

Upon notification of this funding opportunity, OHA program staff began reaching out to partners to identify current and related initiatives to amplify and consult on potential activities and strategies to include in the proposed work plan. Program staff also assessed the potential to align grant activities with other prevention initiatives such as the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program and Public Health Equity

Senator Elizabeth Steiner
Representative Tawna Sanchez
August 21, 2023
Page 3 of 3

Funding Opportunity. Partners confirmed the need for this work and helped identify and refine OHA's proposed work plan.

Action Requested

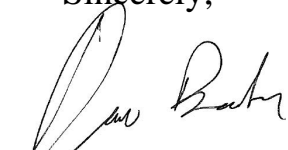
OHA requests retroactive approval for applying to this federal grant. The application was submitted to CDC on July 6, 2023.

OHA will be requesting additional FTE for this funding opportunity if awarded. Funding for these positions will be covered primarily by funds from this grant but may also be supported by funds from other federal grants. The planned positions to be requested include a program analyst 3 for program development and coordination, relationship building and maintenance with local and national partners, and an operations and policy analyst 2 for integration with other agency and enterprise initiatives, and coordination of cessation programming. The position types and program plan will be finalized once the final grant award has been received by OHA.

Legislation Affected

None.

Sincerely,



Dave Baden
Interim Director

EC: Matt Stayner, Legislative Fiscal Office
Patrick Heath, Department of Administrative Services
Kate Nass, Department of Administrative Services
Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Office



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon
Health
Authority

500 Summer St. NE E-20

Salem, OR 97301

Voice: 503-947-2340

Fax: 503-947-2341

www.oregon.gov/oha

August 21, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Interim 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) requests retroactive approval to apply for the 2022 *Emerging Contaminants (EC)* federal grant offered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the existing Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The grant funds are non-competitive and were allocated to Oregon through the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) – commonly referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The Oregon DWSRF program is jointly administered by OHA Drinking Water Services and Oregon Business Development Department (i.e., Business Oregon).

As described in the EPA grant guidance published on March 8, 2022, BIL appropriates three new sources of infrastructure grant funding that are in addition to existing DWSRF base program funding: 1.) General Supplemental DWSRF infrastructure funding; 2.) Lead Service Line Replacement funding; and 3.) Emerging Contaminants funding. This request relates to the third source, Emerging Contaminants funds. BIL-EC grant funds will be made available annually over a 5-year period (appropriated between 2022-2026) and provides \$9,940,000 for the first year and \$11,493,000 per year for the remaining four years, totaling \$55,912,000. No state match is required.

With a grant application deadline of July 31, 2023, OHA officially submitted its BIL-EC grant application for 2022 on July 27, 2023. 10-day notice was sent on July 13, 2023. Currently the grant application has been accepted through Grants.gov and has reached EPA Region 10 for processing. OHA anticipates a grant agreement for these requested funds by the end of the current federal fiscal year, September 30, 2023.

Agency Action

The DWSRF program provides affordable funding of drinking water infrastructure projects that are necessary to ensure that public water systems provide safe drinking water that meets water quality standards. The BIL-EC grant offers 100 percent subsidies to community and non-profit non-community public water systems, making it the most attractive of the three new BIL funds. At least twenty-five percent of the BIL-EC annual grant funds must support projects serving disadvantaged communities (those with a median household income below the statewide median) or eligible public water systems serving fewer than 25,000 people.

The same eligibilities for entities and projects that apply under the base DWSRF program also apply to the BIL-EC grant funds. Public water systems regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act and classified as either community systems or non-profit, non-community systems are eligible for BIL-EC funding. A wide range of infrastructure projects are eligible, addressing public health risks related to emerging contaminants with a focus on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), manganese, and cyanotoxins. Additionally, projects that address any contaminant listed in any of EPA's Contaminant Candidate Lists are eligible.

These grant funds will also contribute to the OHA health equity goal by allocating at least twenty five percent to disadvantaged communities or small water systems (below 25,000 people) and by prioritizing projects with both the greatest public health need and financial need, based on income, poverty rates and other demographic criteria.

Action Requested

OHA requests retroactive permission to apply to the 2022 Emerging Contaminants (EC) federal grant offered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as provided by BIL.

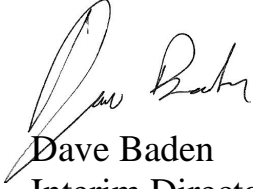
If funded, OHA will request position authority for a compliance & regulatory manager 1 to provide program administration, project review, grant administration. This position will oversee all BIL funding related programs and will be fully funded by the grant award.

Legislation Affected

None.

Senator Elizabeth Steiner
Representative Tawna Sanchez
August 21, 2023
Page 3 of 3

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Baden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "B".

Dave Baden
Interim Director

EC: Matt Stayner, Legislative Fiscal Office
Patrick Heath, Department of Administrative Services
Kate Nass, Department of Administrative Services
Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Office



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of the Director
500 Summer St. NE, E-15
Salem, OR 97301
Voice: 503-945-5600
Fax: 503-581-6198

August 21, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court St. NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem OR 97301

RE: FY23-SNAP-DATA funding opportunity for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) Data and Technical Assistance (DATA) Grant

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) SNAP E&T Program requests retroactive permission to apply for the funding opportunity FY23-SNAP-DATA - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) Data and Technical Assistance (DATA) grant. The department will apply for the total of \$1,500,000 over a three-year period. This funding opportunity does not have a match requirement. The application due date was June 27, 2023. 100% of funding will be passed through to Oregon Employment Department (OED). The 10-day notification letter was submitted on June 13, 2023.

Background

The Oregon Department of Human Services Office (ODHS) of Self-Sufficiency Programs will collaborate with the Oregon Employment Department (OED) to improve data and data practices to support the development and implementation of strategies to improve equitable service delivery to underserved and underrepresented communities.

The department recognizes there is a lack of consistency in how data is collected and used across programs. As a result, it is currently difficult to assess disparities in service delivery, enrollment, participation, and outcomes. In addition, SNAP E&T and its

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"

partners do not have the quantitative and qualitative data they need to identify equity gaps in service delivery and ways to close these gaps.

The programs need a shared data culture, language, and basic building blocks, such as a data dictionary and business glossary, to build and implement an equity service action plan and strategies to better reach underserved communities.

To address the long-standing disparities and the need for better data and data practices, ODHS, in partnership with the Oregon Employment Department (OED) and its partners, plans to implement a three-phase project over three years.

- In Phase 1, the project team will characterize the current SNAP E&T population; identify equity gaps in participant access, participation, and outcomes; create a baseline for program equity and use of data; and identify areas of improvement in data collection, definition, and analysis.
- In Phase 2, the team will identify priorities for populations and service alignment, incorporating participant voices and perspectives. During this phase, we will build a data dictionary and business glossary for SNAP E&T to create a shared understanding of data fields.
- In Phase 3, the team will test interventions to improve equity and implement new ways of using and tracking data to track/improve program equity and quality.

We will use the improved data practices to inform program design and delivery to better serve underserved communities in alignment with the Governor's Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) plan.

ODHS SSP and OED will partner with Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI) to carry out this work. ODHS will pass through 100% of any award to OED. OED will be responsible for the full scope of the grant management.

ODHS, OED, and SJI will collaborate to design and implement enhancements to data and data processes and improve equitable service delivery within the three-year period from September 1, 2023, through September 30, 2026. The SNAP E&T DATA grant will not fund any new permanent ODHS or OED staff positions.

To fully support implementation, 100% federal funding will be requested to support administrative and system-related costs within the \$1.5 million grant.

The value of implementing this initiative can be realized in the following ways.

- Create a better understanding of the SNAP E&T service population and their needs.

- Improve data quality across SNAP E&T with a data dictionary and business glossary.
- Make system enhancements to the state labor exchange (iMatchSkills) in alignment with current modernization efforts at OED.
- Improve ODHS and OED's ability to identify equity gaps and develop interventions.
- Improve equitable SNAP E&T service delivery to underserved populations and underrepresented communities, as defined in the Governor's DEI Plan.

Agency Request

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs requests retroactive permission to apply for the total of \$1,500,000 for three years in response to the FY23-SNAP-DATA funding opportunity.

Legislation Affected

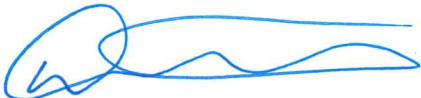
None.

If you have questions, please contact Rob Kodiriy at Rob.Kodiriy@odhs.oregon.gov.

Sincerely,



Fariborz Pakseresht, ODHS Director



David Gerstenfeld, OED Director

EC: Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Office
Gregory Jolivette, Legislative Fiscal Office
Kate Nass, Department of Administrative Services
Mike Streepey, Department of Administrative Services



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of the Director
500 Summer St. NE, E-15
Salem, OR 97301-1097
Voice: 503-945-5600
Fax: 503-581-6198
TTY: 503-945-5896

August 21, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court St. NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem OR 97301

RE: USDA-FNS-SNAP-2022-PTIG funding opportunity for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Process and Technology Improvement Grant (PTIG).

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Self-Sufficiency Programs requests retroactive permission to apply for the funding opportunity USDA-FNS-SNAP-2022-PTIG; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Process and Technology Improvement Grant. The maximum grant awarded is \$2,000,000 over a three-year period. This funding opportunity does not have a match requirement. The application due date was June 15, 2023. The 10-day notification was submitted on June 2, 2023.

Background

The Oregon Department of Human Services Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs will collaborate with the Oregon Eligibility Partnership (OEP) to design and develop enhancements that improve the experience and reduce barriers for individuals applying through the ONE online application portal.

The department has identified an area in our current process that has inadvertently caused an impact for non-citizens, young adults, and peoples with disabilities who have no or low credit history. Many of these individuals have no or low credit history or experience challenges in answering knowledge-based questions. Our current system to help create an online account in ONE requires people to use the Experian credit-based system to help-establish their identity.

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"

Through discovery sessions and community feedback, key areas have been identified that reduce barriers for individuals in applying for and managing program benefits:

Oregon's PTIG proposal will address barriers to underserved communities by increasing accessibility to the online applicant portal for all ONE system programs, thus allowing individuals in these communities to be served more equitably.

A recent study completed by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities¹ found that certain groups of individuals are more likely to experience challenges in completing identity proofing:

- **People with limited credit histories** are less likely to complete identity proofing because, in many cases, the system will lack the information needed to generate questions about them. An estimated 45 million Americans have insufficient or no credit histories².

Those who are unbanked or have little to no access to credit history records are higher among low income and persons of color households.

- **People with inaccuracies in the data used** for identity proofing may not be able to complete identity proofing.
- **Certain immigrant parents** seeking to apply on behalf of their citizen children are unlikely to complete the identity proofing process because they have limited credit histories and may not be able to produce other proof of their identity.

The SNAP PTIG grant will not fund any new permanent ODHS staff positions. ODHS Self Sufficiency Program and OEP will work in partnership with approved contracted vendors who support the ONE system functionality. Those vendors will design and implement enhancements to the online application portal within the three-year period from September 1, 2023, through September 30, 2026.

The value of implementing this initiative can be realized in the following ways:

- Expanded access to the online portal and mobile application to apply, renew, report changes, and easily view notices or upload requested information for all programs.
- Increased customer service due to reduced calls to vendor and technical team staff.
- Decreased barriers across programs to access program benefits through an online option.
- Improved equity access for underserved communities.

¹ (Jennifer Wagner, 2020)

² (Brevoort, 2015)

Agency Request

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs requests retroactive permission to apply for up to the maximum grant of \$2,000,000 for three years via USDA-FNS-SNAP-2022-PTIG.

Legislation Affected

None.

If you have questions, please contact Rob Kodiriy at Rob.Kodiriy@odhs.oregon.gov.

Sincerely,



Fariborz Pakseresht
Director

EC: Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Office
Gregory Jolivette, Legislative Fiscal Office
Kate Nass, Department of Administrative Services
Mike Streepey, Department of Administrative Services



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of the Director

500 Summer St. NE, E-15

Salem, OR 97301-1097

Voice: 503-945-5600

Fax: 503-581-6198

TTY: 503-945-5896

August 21, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court St. NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem OR 97301

RE: Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Grant: HHS-2023-ACF-ACYF-SR-0035

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of Request

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) requests retroactive permission to apply for the Sexual Risk Avoidance Education grant (SRAE) through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children Youth and Families (ACYF) Families and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB). The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (CFDA): 93.060 provides the deadline for the administrative portion of the grant is July 18, 2023. The 10 day notification letter was submitted on July 5, 2023.

The SRAE grant, if awarded, will fund the implementation of middle school sexuality education curriculum for three years: 2023, 2024, 2025. The SRAE Grant would fund, training, curriculum development, and materials. If awarded, ODHS is seeking retroactive permission to receive federal grant funds up to \$450,000. This funding stream does not require a match.

The SRAE Program is funded generally under the authority of Section 510 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 710, and specifically by the appropriation for General Departmental Management for the Office of the Secretary under Division H, Title II of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law. 117-328).

The objectives of the funding are to:

1. Implement curricula that includes medically accurate information referenced in peer-reviewed publications by educational, scientific, governmental, or health organizations.
2. Select sexual risk avoidance curricula and/or strategies with an evidence-based approach to integrate research findings with practical implementation that align with the needs and desired outcomes of the targeted audience of youth.

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"

3. Teach risk avoidance skills through methods that do not normalize teen sexual activity by applying strategies that are culturally appropriate, recognizing the experiences of youth from diverse communities, backgrounds, and experiences.
4. Target services to youth ages 10 to 19.

The link to the Request for Proposals (RFA) for the administrative portion of the grant can be found here: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=srae>.

Background

Oregon's Health Education Standards require comprehensive sexuality education Kindergarten to 12th grade. In 2021, school districts were surveyed to find out which had a comprehensive sex education plan or instruction in place. This data indicated that many school districts are out of compliance with state requirements. In addition to this, data indicates that STI rates and teen dating violence are on the rise across Oregon. See Oregon resource map which indicates school district out of compliance and rates of teen dating violence and sexually transmitted infections across the state:

<http://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=4bf3974813d4436793660897cb923311>

The Department of Human Services has successfully implemented the My Future-My Choice (MFMC) program across Oregon since 2009. ODHS began receiving SRAE funding to implement this program starting in 2016. My Future-My Choice is a peer education curriculum that meets Oregon Health Education Standards for middle school grades and serves an average of 7,000-8,000 students annually.

ODHS currently works with ODE as a long-standing partner that helps to pass along information regarding our curriculum trainings and Sexual Health Workshop Series as well as letting schools and school districts know of the opportunity to offer funding for My Future-My Choice implementation through subgrants. This resource sharing is typically done through newsletters, partner groups and listservs. During our curriculum trainings, ODE provides information on sexual health education laws and the state of Oregon to our teachers and coordinators, which helps participants learn more about what sexuality education standards should cover as well as what sexuality education is.

The additional SRAE funding, if awarded would support the translation and adaptation of the 6th grade curriculum for youth populations across Oregon, especially underrepresented and underserved populations. If awarded, the grant will also fund two full time Limited Duration Program Analyst 2 positions in ODHS. In addition to this, subgrants will be awarded statewide to fund local coordinator positions through each fiscal agent.

If awarded, the Department of Human Services will continue cooperative agreement with Youth Services Programs to operate SRAE programming via the development, translation, adaptation, and assessment of My Future- My Choice curriculum materials. ODHS will work with key partners to identify and address higher need areas with elevated rates of teen dating violence and sexually transmitted infections in a diversity of communities statewide.

To this end ODHS will:

- Continue partnering with the Oregon Department of Education to promote subgrants and curriculum availability to districts in need of additional support with their Plan of Instruction.

- Partner with the Oregon Health Authority to identify areas with elevated rates of teen dating violence and sexually transmitted infections to promote this funding opportunity and curriculum availability.
- Hire positions to support adaptations and development of supporting material to complement the MFMC Curriculum for Oregon youth, especially underrepresented and underserved populations.
- Award sub-grants across Oregon to support local coordination of the middle school curriculum with adaptations and in high-need areas.

Agency Request

The Department of Human Services, Office of Self-Sufficiency requests retroactive permission to apply and, if awarded, accept the Sexual Risk Avoidance Education grant being offered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children, Youth and Families (ACYF). ODHS requests permission to apply for \$450,000 of Federal Funds for program implementation. If necessary, ODHS will return at a future emergency board meeting for additional limitation and LD position authority.

Legislation Affected

None.

If you have questions, please contact Rob Kodiriy at rob.kodiriy@odhs.oregon.gov.

Sincerely,



Fariborz Pakseresht, ODHS Director

EC: Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Office
Gregory Jolivette, Legislative Fiscal Office
Kate Nass, Department of Administrative Services
Mike Streepey, Department of Administrative Services