

ANALYSIS

Item 5: Department of Corrections Federal Grant Awards Limitation

Analyst: John Terpening

Request: Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$1,301,027 for the expenditure of federal grant funds awarded for Braille Transcription, Parenting Inside Out Phase II, and Big Machines, Big Opportunities grant programs.

Analysis: The Department of Corrections (DOC) is requesting an increase in Federal Funds expenditure limitation in the amount of \$1,301,027 to accommodate the successful awarding of a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), and for the carryover of two prior federal grant awards from the 2021-23 biennium.

The grant from the BJA is for a new braille transcription and certification program that would be operated through the American Printing House National Prison Braille Network, which provides the necessary standards, curriculum, and software. There is no state match required, and DOC received permission to apply for this grant in March 2023. The Department received notice of a successful award from the BJA, originally estimated to be \$471,378; however, since submittal of this limitation request, DOC has been informed that it will now receive the maximum award of \$900,000. The Legislative Fiscal Office recommendation has been modified to reflect this increase.

The next two grants, Parenting Inside Out Phase II, and Big Machines, Big Opportunities, were grants approved and awarded in 2021-23, but have remaining funding that requires carryover limitation into 2023-25 as these programs wrap up. The Parenting Inside Out grant is a program occurring at multiple institutions, and there is about \$228,002 remaining in funding with the grant period scheduled to end in September 2024. The Department is planning to request a no-cost extension through March 2025 but funding for the program beyond that has not been identified.

The Big Machines, Big Opportunities grant program provides simulator training for Adults in Custody to learn how to operate large construction equipment. Approved during the 2021 legislative session, DOC has about \$601,647 remaining in funding, and operates this program at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, and the men's institutions on the east side of the state. Currently this grant is scheduled to end September 2024. The Department notes there is the possibility of another grant opportunity in the spring of 2024, but that has not yet been announced, so future funding for this program has also not been identified.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including an increase of \$1,729,649 in Federal Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of Corrections in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2024 legislative session for the expenditure of federal grant awards.

Request: Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$1,301,027 for three federal grant programs.

Recommendation: Approve the request during the 2024 Legislative Session with the following modification: Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$1,729,649 for three grant programs.

Discussion: The Department of Corrections (DOC) is requesting increased Federal Funds expenditure limitation for three grant programs, one new grant, and two carried forward from the 2021-23 biennium.

DOC received permission to apply for the new grant during the 2023 Legislative Session and was notified of the award in October. This grant, from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, will allow the Department to create a Braille Transcription training program for adults in custody. The Department initially requested \$471,738 in Federal Funds expenditure limitation for this grant, but after submission of the letter the Department was notified that they had been awarded \$900,000, which is the full amount of this grant. We recommend increasing the Federal Funds expenditure limitation to the amount received by the Department. This is reflected in the total in the modified recommendation from the Chief Financial Office.

The two grants carried forward from the previous biennium are:

- The Parenting Inside Out grant, from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, which provides services and supports for incarcerated parents and their children. DOC is requesting \$228,002 Federal Funds expenditure limitation to expend the remaining funds for the program.
- The Big Machines, Big Opportunities grant program, from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, which provides simulator training for DOC students to learn how to run large construction equipment and prepare them for jobs after release. DOC is requesting \$601,647 Federal Funds expenditure limitation to expend the remaining funds for the program.

Legal Reference: Increase the Federal Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 377, Section 3, Oregon Laws 2023, for the Department of Corrections, by \$1,729,649 for the 2023-25 biennium.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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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

Subject: Request for Additional Federal Funds Limitation

Dear Co-Chairs:

Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) requests additional federal funds limitation in the amount of \$1,301,027 as further explained below.

Basis for Request

In February, DOC requested and received approval to apply for a U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance grant to start a Braille Transcription training program for adults in custody (AICs). DOC was recently awarded the grant and will need limitation to expend the grant award. Therefore, DOC requests \$471,369 in additional federal funds limitation.

In addition, DOC has reviewed its current grants carried over from the 2021-23 biennium and has determined our current federal funds limitation will not be enough to expend the remainder of those funds. DOC requests \$225,002 to finish spending down the Parenting Inside Out Phase II grant work occurring at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, Columbia River Correctional Facility, and the eastside men's institutions. DOC also requests \$601,647 to finish out the Big Machines, Big Opportunities heavy equipment operator training grant program, which provides simulator training for DOC students to learn how to run large construction equipment and prepare them for jobs in the construction industry after release.

Action Requested

DOC requests the legislature to approve \$1,301,027 in federal funds limitation for the Braille Transcription, Parenting Inside Out Phase II, and Big Machines grants.

Legislation Affected

Chapter 377, 2023 Law

Regards,

Heidi Steward, Acting Director