

# House Bill 2977

Sponsored by Representatives PHAM H, BYNUM; Representatives DEXTER, DIEHL, REYNOLDS, Senator CAMPOS (at the request of Washington County) (Pre-session 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**.

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission, in collaboration with Oregon Health Authority, to establish grant program for purpose of distributing moneys to institutions of higher education to develop programs that prepare students to enter into behavioral health workforce.

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission, in collaboration with State Workforce and Talent Development Board and Oregon Health Authority, to establish grant program to award grants to local workforce development boards that promote workforce development in field of behavioral health.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission to carry out provisions related to grant programs.

Requires Oregon Health Authority to collect and report data regarding recipient use of incentives provided for recruitment and retention of behavioral health workforce and to collect data regarding grants awarded by authority to provide supervised clinical experience for certain behavioral health care providers.

Establishes oversight council to advise Oregon Health Authority in identifying and eliminating systemic barriers that influence funding, allocation of funding and policy choices with respect to behavioral health workforce.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to behavioral health workforce development.

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

4 **SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2023 Act are added to and made a part of ORS 660.300**  
5 **to 660.364.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:**

7 (a) **“Community college” has the meaning given that term in ORS 341.005.**

8 (b) **“Institution of higher education” means a public college or community college or a**  
9 **university.**

10 (c) **“University” means:**

11 (A) **A public university listed in ORS 352.002.**

12 (B) **Oregon Health and Science University.**

13 (2) **The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall, in coordination with the**  
14 **Oregon Health Authority, establish a grant program for the purpose of distributing moneys**  
15 **to institutions of higher education to develop training and instructional programs that pre-**  
16 **pare students to enter into the behavioral health workforce.**

17 (3) **Moneys awarded to a recipient under subsection (2) of this section may be used for:**

18 (a) **Scholarships or other tuition assistance for students going into the field of behavioral**  
19 **health.**

20 (b) **Developing pathways to employment opportunities in the field of behavioral health.**

21 (c) **Recruitment and outreach efforts to increase the number of students training for and**  
22 **entering into the behavioral health workforce.**

**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 (d) Job training and instruction for behavioral health occupations.

2 (4)(a) The commission shall establish criteria and standards by which an institution of  
3 higher education may apply for and receive a grant award.

4 (b) The commission shall award grants based on the ability of the applicant to use the  
5 grant as required under subsection (3) of this section.

6 (5) The commission may adopt any rules necessary for the implementation and adminis-  
7 tration of this section.

8 **SECTION 3.** (1) As used in this section, “institution of higher education” has the meaning  
9 given that term in section 2 of this 2023 Act.

10 (2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall, in consultation with the State  
11 Workforce and Talent Development Board and the Oregon Health Authority, establish and  
12 administer a program for the purpose of awarding grants to local workforce development  
13 boards that provide workforce programs and promote workforce development activities in  
14 the field of behavioral health.

15 (3) Moneys awarded to a recipient under subsection (2) of this section may be used to:

16 (a) Develop programs that provide individuals with training to attain employment in the  
17 behavioral health workforce.

18 (b) Collaborate with high schools, employers and institutions of higher education to con-  
19 nect individuals with employment opportunities in the field of behavioral health.

20 (4)(a) The commission shall establish criteria and standards by which a local workforce  
21 development board may apply for and receive a grant award.

22 (b) The commission shall award grants based on the ability of the applicant to use the  
23 grant as required under subsection (3) of this section.

24 (5) The commission may adopt any rules necessary for the implementation and adminis-  
25 tration of this section.

26 **SECTION 4.** (1) In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is approp-  
27 priated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July  
28 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$1,000,000, for carrying out the provisions  
29 of section 2 of this 2023 Act.

30 (2) In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the  
31 Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of  
32 the General Fund, the amount of \$5,000,000, for carrying out the provisions of section 3 of  
33 this 2023 Act.

34 **SECTION 5.** (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall collect and report geographic data and  
35 data described in ORS 413.164 and on the recipients of incentives under ORS 675.655.

36 (2) Any entity that contracts with the authority to administer incentives under ORS  
37 675.655 shall collect and biannually report to the authority data described in ORS 413.164 on  
38 the recipients of the incentives.

39 (3) Each recipient of a grant under ORS 675.658 shall collect and biannually report to the  
40 Oregon Health Authority data described in ORS 413.164 on the associates or other individuals  
41 receiving clinical supervision from the grantee.

42 (4) The authority shall prescribe by rule the form and manner for reporting the data  
43 collected under this section. The authority shall enter data received under this section into  
44 the data system described in ORS 413.163.

45 (5) Data collected and reported under this section may be disclosed only in the aggregate

1 and in a form that does not allow for the personal identification of individuals whose data is  
2 disclosed.

3 **SECTION 6.** (1) An oversight council is established to advise the Oregon Health Authority  
4 in carrying out ORS 675.650, 675.655 and 675.658. The council shall assist the authority in  
5 identifying and eliminating systemic barriers that influence the funding, allocation of funding  
6 and policy choices with respect to the behavioral health workforce. The authority shall pro-  
7 vide the council with regular, ongoing updates on the implementation of ORS 675.650, 675.655  
8 and 675.658 and other programs designed to expand access to behavioral health providers in  
9 this state, including information about deadlines for program applicants, outreach plans and  
10 strategies to increase participation in the programs, application processes and the demo-  
11 graphics of individuals receiving incentives or benefits.

12 (2) The council consists of 21 members appointed as follows:

13 (a) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members of the  
14 council from among the members of the House of Representatives;

15 (b) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members of the council from among  
16 the members of the Senate;

17 (c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall  
18 jointly appoint one member from the staff of the Speaker or the President;

19 (d) The Governor shall appoint:

20 (A) Two representatives of county governments;

21 (B) One representative of community mental health programs;

22 (C) Two representatives of the federally recognized Indian tribes in this state;

23 (D) Two academic professionals with expertise in equity, behavioral health or workforce  
24 development;

25 (E) Three individuals with practical experience in one or more of the following fields:

26 (i) Treatment for substance use disorder, gambling addiction or other addictive behav-  
27 iors;

28 (ii) Mental health treatment;

29 (iii) Post-secondary or adult education;

30 (iv) Primary and secondary education; or

31 (v) Child care or early learning;

32 (F) Five individuals who are one or more of the following:

33 (i) An individual who experiences racism or racial injustice;

34 (ii) A resident of an area that is underserved in access to behavioral health treatment  
35 or a resident of a rural area of this state;

36 (iii) An advocate for equity or an equity professional;

37 (iv) A bilingual or non-English speaker;

38 (v) An individual with life experience in seeking or receiving mental health care;

39 (vi) An individual with life experience with substance use, problem gambling or addiction;

40 (vii) A culturally specific peer support worker or traditional health worker;

41 (viii) An individual who has experienced challenges in joining or advancing in the behav-  
42 ioral health workforce;

43 (ix) A student who is Black, Indigenous or a Person of Color; or

44 (x) An individual with a disability; and

45 (G) One individual from the Governor's staff.

1       **(3) A majority of the voting members of the council constitutes a quorum for the trans-**  
2 **action of business.**

3       **(4) Official action by the council requires the approval of a majority of the voting mem-**  
4 **bers of the council.**

5       **(5) The council shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.**

6       **(6) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-**  
7 **ment to become immediately effective.**

8       **(7) The council shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or**  
9 **of a majority of the voting members of the council.**

10       **(8) The council may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the council.**

11       **(9) The authority shall provide staff support to the council and shall make and publish**  
12 **recordings of each meeting.**

13       **(10) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the council are nonvoting mem-**  
14 **bers of the council and may act in an advisory capacity only.**

15       **(11) Members of the council who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are enti-**  
16 **tled to stipends in amounts sufficient to compensate them for their time and for ancillary**  
17 **costs, such as child care, necessary for them to attend the meetings and to reimbursement**  
18 **for travel and other expenses reasonably incurred by them in carrying out their official du-**  
19 **ties as provided in ORS 292.495.**

20       **(12) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist**  
21 **the council in the performance of the duties of the council and, to the extent permitted by**  
22 **laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the council**  
23 **consider necessary to perform their duties.**

24       **SECTION 7.** Section 6 of this 2023 Act is repealed on July 1, 2025.  
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