

ANALYSIS

Item 15: Department of Consumer and Business Services Occupational Safety and Health Training

Analyst: Emily Coates

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, in the amount of \$200,000 to fund on-site training opportunities for employer and employees about workplace hazards and employer responsibilities under the Occupational Safety and Health Act and increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of Consumer and Business Services by \$200,000.

Analysis: Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is awarding Susan Harwood Training grants to OSHA On-Site Consultation Programs, OSHA State Plans, and OSHA Training Institute Education Centers to support training and education for employers and workers on preventing workplace hazards. Funding is available for a one-year performance period, from September 2025, through September 2026. There is no state match requirement.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) successfully applied for and was awarded the grant totaling \$200,000. Oregon OSHA will utilize the funding to provide additional in-person training in areas across the state that do not typically receive on-site opportunities, for employers and employees in high-hazard industries, industries with high fatality rates, and for workers who face barriers to training access. Training topics would include workplace hazards, hazard avoidance and controls, worker rights, and employer responsibilities under the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

The Department was notified of this opportunity on August 29, with a closing date of September 12, and funds were awarded on September 27. The legislative interim process for agency's pursuing federal grants includes providing a letter to the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) and the Department of Administrative Services Chief Financial Office (CFO) at least 10 days prior to submitting any federal application and providing LFO and DAS CFO a "notice of intent" followed by a formal letter seeking official authorization at the next interim meeting. Depending on the timing of the grant, this could be a prospective request or a retroactive request to apply.

While the federal timeline for the application only allowed two weeks between notification and application due date, DCBS did not provide a "notice of intent" or a 10-day letter within the specified deadlines under the legislative interim federal grant process. Going forward, DCBS is

expected to adhere to the interim process that has been outlined for all state agencies with timely submittal of the proper materials.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means approve submission of the federal grant application and recommend including an increase of \$200,000 in Federal Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of Consumer and Business Services in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2026 legislative session to fund on-site training opportunities for employer and employees about workplace hazards and employer responsibilities under the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

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Department of Consumer Business and Services
Rogers

Request: Retroactive authorization to apply for a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor and increase Federal Fund expenditure limitation by \$200,000 to expend grant funds.

Recommendation: Approve the request to apply for the grant. Approve the Federal Funds expenditure limitation request during the 2026 Legislative Session.

Discussion: The Department of Consumer Business and Services (DCBS), Oregon OSHA, requests retroactive authorization to apply for U.S. Department of Labor’s Susan Harwood Training grant in the amount of \$200,000 and seeks a \$200,000 Federal Funds expenditure limitation increase to expend the grant funds.

The grant will support the delivery of occupational safety and health training to workers and employers in high-hazard industries, industries with high fatality rates, and workers facing barriers to training. Oregon OSHA’s intent would be to use the grant funds to provide in-person “focus four” training in smaller cities across the state that do not traditionally receive in-person occupational safety and health training opportunities. The information learned from the implementation of the grant can be incorporated into the public education resources Oregon OSHA provides to Oregon employers.

Due to the short timeline to respond to the U.S. Department of Labor, DCBS was awarded \$200,000 on September 27, 2025. Funding covers a one-year performance period from September 30, 2025, to September 30, 2026. No additional positions will be required for the implementation of the grant. There is no state match or maintenance of effort requirements.

Legal Reference: Increase the Federal Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 606, section 2(1), Oregon Laws 2025, for the Department of Consumer and Business Services, by \$200,000 for the 2025-27 biennium.



October 20, 2025

Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Interim Joint Ways & Means Committee
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

Nature of the Request

The Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), Oregon OSHA, respectfully requests retroactive approval to apply for the 2025 Susan Harwood Training Grant and a \$200,000 federal fund limitation increase to expend federal grant funds from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Agency Action

On Aug. 29, 2025, the U.S. Department of Labor notified DCBS, Oregon OSHA, by email of the opportunity to apply for up to \$200,000 in 2025 Susan Harwood Training Grant funds. The funds were being made available to OSHA State Plan Programs for the first time as the funds had previously been limited to nonprofit entities. Applications were due to the U.S. Department of Labor by Sept. 12, 2025. Due to the timing of the notification occurring after the deadline for submitting matters for the September 2025 Interim Joint Ways and Means Committee (IJWMC), DCBS is seeking retro-active approval from the November 2025 IJWMC.

The funds administered through the grant would cover a one-year performance period from Sept. 30, 2025, to Sept. 30, 2026. There are no state match or maintenance of effort requirements.

The grant funds would benefit Oregonians by providing training opportunities for employers and employees about workplace hazards, hazard avoidance, controls, worker rights, and employer responsibilities under the Occupational Safety and Health Act. The grant is intended to support the delivery of occupational safety and health training to workers and employers in high-hazard industries, industries with high fatality rates, and workers facing barriers to training. Oregon OSHA's intent would be to use the grant funds to provide in-person "focus four" training in smaller cities across the state that do not traditionally receive in-person occupational safety and



health training opportunities. The four training topics in the “focus four” are: falls, caught-in or between, struck-by, and electrocution. The training would focus on workers and employers in small businesses, training on new OSHA requirements, training on rights and responsibilities in the workplace, or training to those that face barriers to safety and health training.

The grant would allow Oregon OSHA a more concentrated training effort for rural communities in need of this safety and health information. The information learned from the implementation of the grant can be incorporated into the public education resources Oregon OSHA provides to Oregon employers. This will continue DCBS’ mission to equitably protect and empower consumers and workers while maintaining a predictable yet innovative regulatory environment for the businesses we regulate.

Due to the short timeline to respond to the U.S. Department of Labor, DCBS requested and was awarded \$200,000 on Sept. 27, 2025. If DCBS receives retroactive grant approval, Oregon OSHA would be required to seek an increase in federal funds expenditure limitation. No additional positions or FTE will be required for the implementation of the grant.

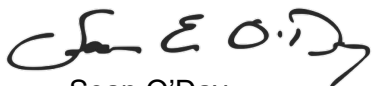
Action Requested

The Department of Consumer and Business Services respectfully requests that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means approve this request for retroactive authorization to apply for and receive funds made available to Oregon OSHA through the U.S. Department of Labor 2025 Susan Harwood Training Grant Program and a federal fund limitation increase totaling \$200,000 for the additional federal revenues received under the grant.

Legislation Affected

None

Sincerely,



Sean O'Day
Acting Director

