



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of the Director

500 Summer St. NE, E-15

Salem, OR 97301-1097

503-947-5110

Fax: 503-378-2897

TTY: 503-947-5080

August 30, 2010



The Honorable Peter Courtney, Co-Chair

The Honorable Dave Hunt, Co-Chair

State Emergency Board

900 Court St, NE

H-178 State Capitol

Salem, OR 97301-4048

Re: Retroactive Request – Competitive Grant – Non-ARRA Funded
Initiative to Reduce Long-Term Foster Care (DHS-CAF-07)

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

NATURE OF THE REQUEST

The Department of Human Services (DHS), Children, Adults and Families (CAF) Division, and the Oregon Commission on Children & Families (OCCF) is requesting retroactive approval to apply for a Cooperative Agreement, funded up to five years, through the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. DHS and OCCF submitted the required 10-day letter to the State Emergency Board on July 27, 2010 and submitted the grant application on August 6, 2010.

The Cooperative Agreement has a funding potential of up to \$2,500,000, the first year, with a five year estimated total of up to \$17,000,000, which includes incentive payments. If approved, DHS & OCCF have requested \$852,258 for the first year and intend to apply for the maximum amount in subsequent years, in order to effectively implement practices to safely and equitably reduce foster care, for the full award period of five years.

It is anticipated that approximately \$476,000 of the first year funding (55%) will be through expenditures within the local community contracts for community



based services and technical assistance. The additional funding, approximately \$376,000 (45%) will be dedicated to the 4.5 limited duration positions, equipment, supplies, and travel at DHS and OCCF. These positions will be abolished once the grant funds end.

Grantees must provide at least 10 percent of the total approved cost of the project. The total approved cost of the project is the sum of the ACF (Federal) share and the non-Federal share. The non-Federal share may be met by cash or in-kind contributions. The Departments have submitted the application with the intention of sharing the required match burden between the departments and with community contractors who too will participate in generating match requirements.

DHS and OCCF will cooperatively identify the appropriate state matching requirements of 10 percent while working with community partners and contractors to assist the state offices in securing in-kind and match funding at the local level. DHS and OCCF are still negotiating with community partners for the best option to reach the required match. If approved DHS and OCCF may return to the Emergency Board for any necessary expenditure limitations, position authority and specifications of the match fund requirements.

During the first year of planning, DHS and OCCF anticipate including a core project team of:

- 1 FTE Project Manager – DHS
- 1 FTE Data Integrity/Internal Research Coordinator – DHS
- 1 FTE Clerical Support Staff – DHS
- 1 FTE Site Coordinator – DHS
- 0.5 FTE Community Engagement Coordinator - OCCF

4.5 FTE Total Year 1 (Core Project Team funded by the grant)

AGENCY ACTION

The purpose of this opportunity is to fund demonstration projects in three Oregon counties that support the implementation and test the effectiveness of innovative intervention strategies to reduce the number of children in Oregon who are in long-term foster care.

If awarded this grant by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families and if approval to accept this grant by the Oregon State Emergency Board is granted, the program objectives of this Initiative to Reduce Long-Term foster care will include:

1. **Collaborative Planning** for site selection, community engagement, and consultation on culturally specific work.
2. **Target Populations** are families whose children are at risk of foster care placement secondary to parental substance abuse; children who have been in foster care for three or more years; and children of color.
3. **Implementation** of consistent practice principles operating within the shared philosophy. Proven, community specific interventions will be selected.
4. **Evaluate** this model of child welfare practice as an evidence-based model of effective safe and equitable foster care reduction.
5. **Achieve Sustainability** by evolving current child welfare practices statewide as indicated by evaluation outcomes.

These objectives will be managed by DHS and in strong collaboration with OCCF, Rita Sullivan at OnTrack, Inc. substance abuse treatment agency and local community partners.

Oregon expects to sustain this opportunity by showing evidence through the evaluation portion of this Agreement that the program identified above can be cost neutral, in comparison to the cost of foster care, with an increase in child well-being outcome measures. If this collaboration between state agencies and public and private partnerships is not successful then the demonstration project will cease at the end of the grant funding.

ACTION REQUESTED

The Department of Human Services (DHS), Children, Adults and Families (CAF) along with the Oregon Commission on Children and Families (OCCF) requests approval to accept the grant if awarded and approval to apply for supplemental funding for “Competitive Cooperative Agreement – Non- ARRA funded- Initiative to Reduce Long-Term Foster Care” from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families.

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LEGISLATION AFFECTED

None.

Sincerely,



Jim Scherzinger
Deputy Director of Finance
Department of Human Services



Mickey Lansing
Executive Director
Oregon Commission on
Children and Families

Enclosures