



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Health Authority

Office of the Director

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August 30, 2010

The Honorable Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
The Honorable Dave Hunt, Co-Chair
State Emergency Board
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Re: Retroactive Request to Apply – Affordable Care Act (ACA) – Non-ARRA Funded – Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (OHA-PH-14)

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Public Health Division (PHD) requests retroactive permission to apply for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program for federal funds of up to \$1,061,379 for twenty-seven months beginning July 15, 2010, and ending September 30, 2012.

The funding is available through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) and the Administration for Children & Families (ACF). The request for applications was received on June 10, 2010, and the grant application was due on July 9, 2010. This grant requires no state matching funds.

Agency Action

This funding opportunity is the first of three grant phases of a much anticipated opportunity for federal support to states and local communities to

implement proven evidence-based home visiting models based on a comprehensive assessment of individual state's needs. The overall goal of the three funding opportunities is to assure effective coordination and delivery of critical health, development, early learning, child abuse and neglect prevention, and family support services to children and families through home visiting programs. Funding from this grant and subsequent others will provide the needed assistance to Oregon to design and implement a coordinated system of early childhood home visiting that has the capacity and commitment to provide high-quality services that are based upon proven, evidence-based methods. The grant opportunities are designed to:

- Strengthen and improve the programs and activities carried out under the Maternal and Child Health Title V Block Grant;
- Improve coordination of services for at-risk communities; and,
- Identify and provide comprehensive services to improve outcomes for families who reside in at-risk communities.

At-risk communities will be identified through a statewide assessment of Oregon's needs, conducted by a multi-agency workgroup, and will include a summary of existing resources to meet those needs. To begin this work, a State Home Visiting Steering Committee has already been formed that includes the OHA PHD, Oregon Commission on Children and Families , Oregon Department of Education, OHA Addictions and Mental Health Division , Department of Human Services Children, Adults and Families Division, and the Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs. Along with local partners across Oregon, the Committee has been working together to develop a home visiting system that meets this goal.

According to the funding opportunity announcement, the three grant opportunities within the ACA Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program legislation and timelines include:

1. A proposed plan for conducting the home visiting needs assessment and development of the home visiting system due July 9, 2010;
2. A completed needs assessment with a draft home visiting system based on the needs assessment due September 1, 2010; and,
3. A proposed comprehensive home visiting system that develops home visiting capacity and infrastructure to support and implement

designated evidence-based home visiting models due in early Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011, which begins October 1, 2010, on a date yet to be determined.

Based upon successful completion of the proposed plan in phase 1 on July 9, 2010, HRSA allocated \$1,061,379 to Oregon for FFY 2010. All but \$500,000 of the allocation is restricted, and funds will not be available for expenditure until such time as Oregon submits an approved needs assessment and updated state plan for the home visiting program. The \$500,000 will be used to conduct the comprehensive home visiting needs assessment and home visiting system design, which is required for the second grant opportunity. We anticipate requesting additional position authority for two full-time limited duration positions: An Operations and Policy Analyst to manage the grant and activities, and an Office Specialist to provide clerical and administrative support.

The grant announcement for the second grant opportunity has not been released yet. From communication with federal partners, this second grant opportunity may be separated into two parts, with the first part due in mid-September. The second part may be combined with a third grant opportunity that would require a later application that would be due in FFY 2011. If the third application is successful, it would release the remaining \$561,379 allocated to Oregon for FFY 2010. The program believes this third grant opportunity will also have a competitive component and that it should provide additional funding opportunities for subsequent years FFY 2011 through 2014.

The first and second funding opportunities do not require any maintenance of effort by the state, and there is not an expectation that the state will fund these activities or the positions at the end of the grant period. Language in this current announcement suggests that there may be a potential maintenance of effort for the third funding opportunity pending release of the grant guidance which will require future review and analysis to determine if Oregon would be eligible.

This grant furthers the OHA mission to assist Oregonians to become healthy and safe by providing the groundwork for developing an evidence-based home visiting system of care for pregnant women, parents and caregivers, and children from birth to eight years of age.

This grant is not a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Action Requested

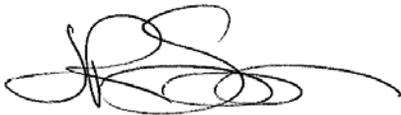
The OHA Public Health Division requests retroactive permission to apply for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program for federal funds of up to \$1,061,379 over twenty-seven months beginning July 15, 2010 and ending September 30, 2012. If funds are awarded, the OHA Public Health Division will evaluate the need for additional expenditure limitation or position authority at a future Emergency Board.

Legislation Affected

None.

If you need additional information, please contact Katherine Bradley at 971-673-0233.

Sincerely,



Jim Scherzinger
Deputy Director of Finance

CC: Linda Ames, Legislative Fiscal Office
Sheila Baker, Legislative Fiscal Office
Blake Johnson, Department of Administrative Services
Kelly Freels, Department of Administrative Services