



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Health Authority

Office of the Director

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November 8, 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 – Competitive Grant– Non-ARRA
Funded – Pesticide Incident Surveillance Program (OHA-PH-26)

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Public Health Division requests retroactive permission to apply for the Pesticide Incident Surveillance Program grant for federal funds of up to \$75,000 a year for five years, beginning January 2011 and ending December 2015, for a total of up to \$375,000.

The intent of the grant is to enhance the collection of pesticide incident data to better understand the health risks and create effective prevention strategies. The funding is available through US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Pesticide Programs. The request for proposals was received on September 20, 2010, and the application was due on November 4, 2010. This grant funding requires no state matching funds.

Agency Action

Each year, Oregon Health Authority's Pesticide Exposure Safety & Tracking (PEST) Program receives up to 250 reports of acute pesticide poisoning in individuals in Oregon. Of these, 125-150 are determined to meet the standardized definition of acute pesticide poisoning. Since 2005, limited

funding for this analysis has been provided by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Pesticide Analytical Response Center (PARC). PARC is an interagency board whose primary function is to coordinate investigations to collect and analyze information about reported pesticide incidents. The PARC funding supports a part-time program coordinator to do the basic investigation of these cases, but it does not provide any support for in-depth analysis of the data, in-depth case investigations, educational activities which may prevent the occurrence of such exposures, or partnering with groups in at-risk communities and occupations, including migrant farm workers.

In addition to this base funding, during the 2007-2009 biennium ODA provided some one-time additional funds for PEST to conduct a basic analysis of 689 “likely” cases of pesticide poisoning that were reported between 2002 through 2007. The analysis of the “likely” cases identified three needs that form the basis of this application.

1. Our analysis revealed that bystanders, not just workers who apply pesticides, need to be better protected. Of 689 “likely” reported illnesses determined to be the result of pesticide poisoning, 124 occurred among Oregon workers. Of those, more than two-thirds (82) were exposed while engaged in routine work not having to do with pesticide use (i.e., they were poisoned from pesticide use by co-workers or by others).

To address this, our grant application proposes a partnership with Oregon Community Health Worker Network (OCHWN) through the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association. OCHWN is a community-based organization of Latino community health workers, affiliated with eight health clinics, who provide health education to farm workers. The objective will be to train OCHWN to include pesticide safety messages in their work with farm workers. OCHWN and the physicians that advise them will shape those messages as they have first-hand knowledge of the pesticide-related dangers faced by those workers.

Partnership building, curriculum design, and train-the-trainer workshops at locations throughout Oregon will commence in the farming “off-season” during November 2011 through February 2012.

Development of this curriculum will also allow OCHWN to provide this pesticide safety knowledge to farm workers throughout the year wherever workers have gathered. During project years two through four, PEST will work with members of OCHWN to apply lessons learned in year one to improve future workshops. Additional workshops in other locations will be added as needed. The partnership will evaluate and report on the effectiveness of these trainings during year five. This grant will fund additional hours for existing Public Health Educator staff who have been funded under other cooperative agreement or grant funding for projects that will soon be completed.

2. Our analysis revealed that the Oregon Poison Center (OPC) was responsible for notification to PEST of over 80% of the “likely” cases. Yet because OPC’s reports primarily serve an emergency purpose, they do not always contain critical information needed to track the details surrounding acute pesticide poisoning like exact pesticide identifiers or clues as to how the exposure happened. Having this additional information would increase the accuracy of PEST’s analyses on acute pesticide poisoning in Oregon and provide a stronger basis on which public policy could be formed. During the first year, PEST will partner with OPC to address these needs, which would include a limited number of key questions asked of callers reporting pesticide poisoning to OPC phone line staff. Dr. Daniel Sudakin, MD, MPH, a medical toxicologist who heads the National Pesticide Medical Monitoring Program at OSU, has agreed to advise the project. The key questions developed with OPC during the first year, may also be included with the training of OCHWN. This portion of the project will also include an evaluation by PEST and OPC to measure how much the questions have enriched the data during years two through five. This collaborative work will be accomplished through a memorandum of understanding with OPC and OSU at no cost. This grant will fund additional hours for existing staff who have current projects coming to an end and will be available to conduct this work.
3. This grant will also fund additional hours for an existing Research Analyst to address aspects of acute pesticide poisoning in Oregon that are currently unknown. For example, we presently do not have the data to tell us whether the pesticides involved in these “likely”

pesticide poisonings are limited to restricted-use chemicals, available only to licensed applicators, or whether they are general-use pesticides available at local hardware stores. Our PARC funded analysis has revealed that some rural Oregon counties are disproportionately impacted at a higher incident rate by pesticide exposures. However, we presently do not know exactly why this occurs. Knowing this additional information could potentially result in fewer exposures.

This funding opportunity does not require any maintenance of effort by the state and there is no expectation that the state will continue to fund these activities at the end of the grant period.

These federal funds will further the OHA mission to assist Oregonians to become healthy and safe by enhancing the tracking and analysis of acute occupational pesticide poisonings and providing funding to community health workers to provide pesticide education. If funds are awarded, OHA will return to a future Emergency Board for any necessary expenditure limitation adjustments.

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

Action Requested

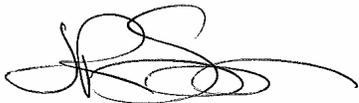
The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Public Health Division requests retroactive permission to apply for federal funds available through the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs for federal funding of up to \$75,000 per year for five years, beginning January 2011 and ending December 2015, for a total of up to \$375,000.

Legislation Affected

None.

For additional information, please call Gail R. Shibley at 971-673-0403.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JS', with several loops and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Scherzinger
Deputy Director of Finance

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