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June 8, 2021

To: ODDS Stakeholders

From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

Subject: Recruitment and Retention Grant Opportunity

In response to the workforce crisis and staffing shortages faced by provider agencies due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) is making one-time funding available to providers for recruitment and retention efforts. This funding is intended specifically for incentives and initiatives in support of recruiting and retaining staff who provide direct care (including, but not limited to, Direct Support Professionals and Employment Specialists). Agencies operating with only contracted staff (as opposed to employees) are not eligible for this grant.

ODDS will begin issuing grant applications to your agency June 9, 2021, and it will require a one week turn-around to ensure that this funding can be provided as soon as possible. To help you prepare in advance, some items required for the grant proposal will include: identifying which initiatives your agency will use this funding for, and how your agency will ensure it maintains records for auditing and a final report to ODDS. The grant amount available will be based on the number of individuals served and services offered.

Some items this funding can be used for include:

- Recruitment and retention incentives;
- Reimbursements to those who provide direct care to remove barriers to work such as transportation or childcare;
- Vaccination incentives; and
- Creative recruitment strategies.

Recruitment and retention efforts with this funding must be completed by December 31, 2021. Any funds not spent must be returned at the time of final reporting.

We appreciate the efforts providers have made to ensure health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope this funding opportunity will support your critical work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lilia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Lilia Teninty  
Director  
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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