

# Frequently Asked Questions: 2025 Behavioral Health Resource Network funding

## Background

On Wednesday, March 26, 2025, and Friday, March 28, 2025, the Oversight and Accountability Council (OAC) reviewed and voted on modifications to awards for Behavioral Health Resource Network (BRHN) grants for the 2025-2029 cycle. OAC determined it was necessary to update awards based on two pieces of newly received information. Oregon's Central Budget Office issued a new Drug Treatment and Recovery Services Funds (DTRSF) forecast, reducing the available funds from \$427 million to \$391.3 million. Likewise, feedback on initial award notifications identified that decreased award amounts would result in some existing grantees significantly reducing or altogether stopping provision of established services.

This grant cycle prioritized selections that would ensure the continuity, accessibility, and stability of existing services and providers, with particular consideration for established culturally and linguistically specific services. Over the last three years BHRNs' development and expansion of behavioral health services has established community trust in and clarity about pathways to care. It was essential to OAC, with support from OHA, to make decisions that support and preserve these relationships and services. At every stage, all decisions were made in alignment with the [rules](#) governing the RFGA process.

This grant cycle there were 324 applications totaling more than \$1.1 billion in proposed funding. As only \$391.3 million is available to grant, all of the funding decisions were challenging. It is clear these funds are needed across the state, yet there are not enough resources to meet demand. Even with this context, we acknowledge the impact of these decisions on your agencies and communities.

Below are responses to frequently received questions about the OAC's funding decisions.

## Frequently asked questions

### **Why would OHA/OAC release notices of intent and then change their mind?**

Award decisions were made thoughtfully over the course of several months. The process included 28 two-to-four hour long panel review meetings where every application was considered and discussed. Following those panel review meetings, the OAC met nine times to finalize funding decisions.

From the outset, a well-structured and accessible process was essential to OAC's approach. In preparation for this grant cycle, we heard from community partners that timeliness in the review process was essential to their ability to respond and prepare in correspondence to award decisions. The grant review and decision-making process was designed with this in mind.

The decision to revise awards was made out of necessity, given the significant change in funding forecast from Oregon's Central Budget Office and newly identified system vulnerabilities created by decreased funding for existing partners.

### **My organization provides culturally specific services and our funding was decreased. How does that align to prioritizing culturally specific services?**

OAC endeavored to prioritize culturally specific services among both existing and new grantees. Unfortunately, changes to the DTRSF forecast and newly identified vulnerabilities for existing services required adjustments. OAC sought to minimize reductions to culturally specific services but could not prevent them altogether.

### **This new letter of intent reduces my award amount. I would like to appeal this decision. What is the process?**

The appeal process is explicitly guided by statute, [944-020-0030](#). Appeals can only be made when an applicant receives a grant denial. Appeals cannot be made about award amounts. OHA is committed to work with each grantee throughout the

negotiation process to align grant outcomes and deliverables based on the new award amounts.

**I believe the decision to reduce my award reflects bias against my organization. What can be done?**

If you believe that an OAC member had a conflict of interest that they failed to disclose, you can contact the Oregon Government Ethics Commission. Abiding by Oregon's ethics laws are the individual responsibility of public officials. The Oregon Public Official Guide does make it clear that if a public official has an actual conflict of interest, but still votes, that vote does not void the official action of the public body. See the [Public Official Guide](#), page 16.

**What is OAC/OHA doing to ensure there is adequate funding for these needs in the future?**

BHRN grants are funded through cannabis tax revenue and subject to change each year. Experts project that cannabis tax revenue will continue to decline in the coming years. With this in mind, BHRN grant administrators are committed to working with BHRNs to explore other funding opportunities and to facilitate technical assistance for Medicaid licensing and certification.