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*The State of Oregon promotes equal opportunity for all individuals without regard to age, color, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion or creed, sex or gender, sexual orientation, or Veteran status.*

## **Learning Collaborative Participants Needed**

**Posted Date: April 15, 2024**

**Deadline: Applications will be received ongoing until 5:00 PM April 23, 2024**

### **1. Introduction**

The Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Behavioral Health Equity and Community Partnerships unit is seeking participants for a "Learning Collaborative"<sup>1</sup> aimed at identifying strengths, gaps, and unmet needs involving Culturally and Linguistically Specific Behavioral Health and Co-Occurring Disorder Services<sup>2</sup> provided to Minoritized Cultural Communities<sup>3</sup> in Oregon.

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<sup>1</sup> **Learning Collaborative Model** means bringing together participants from different organizations and using experts to educate and coach the participants in quality improvement, implementing evidence-based and evidence-informed practices, and measuring the effects which is described at: National Library of Medicine - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9935679/>.

Facilitator will use the Learning Collaborative model to bring participants together in order to facilitate collective problem-solving aimed at addressing complex issues that lack singular or simple solutions. This model is particularly effective in tackling problems that require collaboration among various invested parties.

<sup>2</sup> **Culturally and Linguistically Specific Behavioral Health Services** means quality mental health, substance use, co-occurring disorders, problem gambling, and other behavioral health prevention, treatment, and recovery supports and services that are designed specifically for a distinct minoritized cultural community, developed based on the languages used and cultural values of the distinct minoritized cultural community and designed to elevate their voices and experiences, and that have the aim of enhancing emotional safety, belonging, and a shared collective cultural experience for healing and recovery among the distinct minoritized cultural community served.

<sup>3</sup> **Minoritized Cultural Community** is a community that has experienced historical and contemporary discrimination and oppression primarily on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual and affectional orientation, ability status, and/or migration history.

The Learning Collaborative will bring together individuals, experts, and representatives from organizations, alliances, and coalitions in behavioral health. Its purpose is to address complex issues through collective problem-solving, focusing on enhancing strengths and addressing gaps in culturally and linguistically specific behavioral health services. OHA is seeking up to 15 participants comprised of professionals in Behavioral Health. Only one application may be submitted by any one eligible individual, organization, governmental entity, or Tribe located within the State of Oregon.

Sessions will primarily be conducted virtually; however, it is possible that sessions may be conducted in-person depending on the needs of the Learning Collaborative.

## **2. Timeline**

Overall commitment anticipated to be approximately 16 months, with sessions beginning in spring of 2024, as well as attendance at a conference during the commitment time period which includes up to 18 sessions.

## **3. Goals**

Participants will work collaboratively to develop test tools to address unmet needs of the distinct minoritized culturally specific communities they serve. Upon successful development of collective test tools, and in order to implement pilot initiatives to address unmet needs, each participant will be awarded \$25,000.00 through a Small Procurement<sup>4</sup>.

Capitalized terms not specifically defined in this document are defined in OAR 309-065-0000.

## **4. Overview and Purpose**

Participants will use the Learning Collaborative model to collectively problem-solve aimed at addressing complex issues that lack singular or simple solutions. This model is particularly effective in tackling problems that require collaboration among various invested parties.

During the first 3 learning sessions, participants will gather information about current methods of offering culturally and linguistically specific Behavioral Health services,

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<sup>4</sup> **Small Procurement** is a procurement of products or services valued at \$25,000 or less. Small Procurements do not require the use of the competitive process. An agency may award a contract for a Small Procurement in any manner deemed practical or convenient.

including their effectiveness, strengths, gaps, and unmet needs in minoritized communities in Oregon.

Starting from the 4th session, participants will use the gathered information and collaborate to develop change ideas and test tools or processes that aim to address the identified problems.

As participants gain a deeper understanding of effective strategies to strengthen their services and tackle identified gaps, subsequent learning sessions will create opportunities for information sharing, mutual learning, and further refinement of knowledge pertaining to Culturally and Linguistically Specific Behavioral Health and Co-Occurring Disorder Services.

By the end of the Learning Collaborative, participants will have developed service and system improvement recommendations that can be replicated or adapted by service providers to fulfill the unmet needs identified by the Learning Collaborative. Additionally, Learning Collaborative participants will be invited to showcase their work at a conference for culturally and linguistically specific behavioral health and co-occurring disorder service providers, organizations, and invested parties fostering the sharing of best practices, knowledge refinement, and discussions on cross-system collaboration.

## **5. Scope of Allowable Program Activities**

- Gather information about current methods of offering culturally and linguistically specific behavioral health and co-occurring disorder services.
- Identify strengths, gaps, and unmet needs involving culturally and linguistically specific behavioral health and co-occurring disorder services provided to Minoritized Cultural Communities in Oregon.
- Collaborate to develop change ideas and tools or processes to address identified gaps in services and unmet needs.
- Share information, mutual learning, and refining knowledge related to Culturally and Linguistically Specific Behavioral Health Services.
- Develop service and system improvement recommendations for replication or adaptation by service providers.

## **6. Required Activities**

As a participant in the Learning Collaborative, your responsibilities will include:

- **Active Participation:** Actively engage in self-reflection, participate in the collaborative process, contribute insights, and share experiences related to culturally and linguistically specific behavioral health services.

- Attendance: Commit to attending all scheduled Learning Collaborative sessions.
- Collaboration: Collaborate with the facilitator, co-facilitator (if applicable), and fellow participants to develop change ideas, strategies, and recommendations to address unmet needs and identified gaps in services.
- Peer-to-Peer Learning: Participate in peer-led discussions, share best practices, and learn from the experiences of others.
- Commitment to Health Equity: Demonstrate a strong commitment to advancing health equity and addressing disparities in behavioral health services.
- Small Procurement Usage: Utilize \$25,000 to support the implementation of test strategies and initiatives designed during the Learning Collaborative.
- Evaluation: Contribute to the evaluation of the Learning Collaborative's effectiveness by providing feedback and insights.
- Knowledge Sharing: Share knowledge gained from the Learning Collaborative with your respective organizations and communities.
- Commitment to maintaining a Respectful Environment: Honor the perspectives and lived experiences of other participants. Please refer to the Art of Community.

## **7. Disbursement of Funds**

Disbursement of funds will be made in single lump-sum payments to recipients upon successful development of collective test tools to implement pilot initiatives and address unmet needs.

## **8. Reporting**

Recipients must submit an end-of-session narrative and expenditure reports (300-500 words) for allowable activities by the 15th day of the month after each reporting period throughout the term of the Learning Collaborative.

## **9. Minimum Qualifications and Minimum Submission Requirements**

- **Minimum Qualifications**
  - (a) Applicant must be lawfully allowed to conduct business in the State of Oregon. Applicant who is a corporation, partnership, or has an assumed business name must be registered with the Oregon Secretary of State at the time of the execution of the Small Procurement.
  - (b) Applicant must demonstrate their experience in the provision of Culturally and Linguistically Specific Behavioral Health Services, including a description of their existing relationships and position of trust with the distinct minoritized culturally specific community they serve.

- **Minimum Submission Requirements**

For applications to be considered for evaluation they must contain:

**(a)** Letter of Interest: The letter of interest must describe applicant's knowledge and experience in providing culturally specific services to a distinct minoritized culturally and/or linguistically specific community. It should also address applicant's knowledge on gaps in services and unmet needs within the community.

**(b)** The letter must detail how the applicant is meeting minimum qualifications and include the following:

- Identification of the contact person for the applicant's proposal
- Contact person's address, phone number, and e-mail address
- Signature of an authorized representative of the applicant's organization
- Description of your strengths and successes in providing services to people from the Minoritized Cultural Community you focus on
- Hopes and dreams for behavioral health services to address unmet needs of the community (goals and outcomes)
- Geographic location of communities served by the applicant (rural, urban etc.)
- Estimated or actual percentage of clients your organization serves who reside in rural Oregon (if applicable/available)
- Addressing the needs of clients who identify with multiple marginalized groups beyond the Minoritized Cultural Community your organization primarily serves, such as other Minoritized Cultural Communities, individuals with disabilities, Rural Oregon<sup>5</sup> residents, and low-income individuals and families.
- Demonstrating strong commitment to learning and advancing health equity and addressing disparities in behavioral health services.

**(c)** Resume: Outline the relevant work experience and education of the person who would serve as the participant (individual or the representative of the organization)

Up to 15 participants will be selected out of the pool of candidates; applications will be evaluated based on their specialty. This means that if there are multiple culturally specific providers serving the same distinct minoritized community, they will be evaluated in comparison to other providers serving the same community.

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<sup>5</sup> **Rural Oregon** is defined as any geographic areas in Oregon ten or more miles from the centroid of a population center of 40,000 people or more.

## 10. Overview of Committee Compensation and HB2992

In 2021, Oregon legislators passed [House Bill \(HB\) 2992](#). The bill is now Oregon law in Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 292.495. It provides for some individuals to receive compensation and expenses related to their service on state boards and commissions. The law, effective since September 25, 2021, applies to committees operated by OHA and all state agencies. Participants in the Learning Collaborative may qualify for compensation for their time, which is taxable.

Qualified individuals can receive payment for services. Qualified individuals under [ORS 292.495](#):

- Are not full-time public service employees (federal, state, county, city or other publicly funded entity), and
- Reported an adjusted gross income in the previous tax year:
  - Of less than \$50,000 on an income tax return other than a joint return.
  - Of less than \$100,000 on a joint return.

Once participants are accepted into the Learning Collaborative, they can inform OHA staff of their eligibility and interest in applying for compensation under ORS 292.495.