



Office of the Director

Kate Brown, Governor



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March 5, 2015

The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Peter Buckley, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Re: Request to Apply Letter – Competitive Grant – SM-15-006 Project LAUNCH  
(Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children’s Health) State/Tribal Expansion (OHA-  
PH-15-04)

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

### **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Public Health Division requests permission to apply for Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children’s Health) a federal grant from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Agency (SAMHSA). The grant is for up to \$680,000 per year for 4 years, beginning October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2019, for a total of up to \$2,720,000.

The request for proposals was received on January 28, 2015, and the application is due on March 30, 2015. This grant funding does not require state matching funds or in-kind services. There is no federal requirement for maintenance of effort.

The goal of this grant is to improve early childhood systems, strengthen parenting competencies, and improve children’s developmental and behavioral outcomes. This grant will expand on two previous Oregon Project LAUNCH grants to focus on systems improvement and wellness promotion services into three new communities within Oregon. The goals of this expansion grant are to improve early childhood systems, strengthen parenting competencies, and improve children’s developmental and behavioral outcomes in more communities.

## **Agency Action**

The Public Health Division's Maternal and Child Health Program partnered with Deschutes County to implement several strategies to improve early childhood wellness. Multnomah County also received a previous LAUNCH grant. Both communities implemented the following strategies to improve early childhood wellness: screening and assessment in a range of child-serving settings; integration of behavioral health into primary care; mental health consultation in early care and education; enhanced home visiting with a focus on social and emotional well-being; family strengthening and parent skills training. Deschutes County implemented these strategies from 2009-2014, and Multnomah County implemented these strategies from 2010-2015.

The purpose of the Project LAUNCH Expansion grant is to build upon these system improvements and wellness services for young children and their families supported by Deschutes and Multnomah County Project LAUNCH in three new communities, with an emphasis on decreasing racial and ethnic behavioral health disparities within the Hispanic/Latino community. Areas of focus include maternal mental health, parent-child interaction therapy and mental health consultation to child care and home visiting. The Latino/Hispanic population was chosen because it is the fastest growing racial/ethnic group in Oregon. The Addictions and Mental Health Report "Children Mental Health: Ensuring Access and Sustaining Services, 2012-2015" identified the "children of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity as much less likely to receive mental health services."

To address this racial and ethnic behavioral health disparity, this grant will fund at least three of the five counties in Oregon that have the highest Latino/Hispanic population, as identified by the 2010 Census data. These five counties are Hood River County, Malheur County, Marion County, Morrow County and Umatilla County. The three communities will be identified based on their letters of interest and capacity to support the young child and family services. OHA MCH staff have and will continue to collaborate with OHA's Addictions and Mental Health Division and Office of Equity and Inclusion, ODE's Early Learning Division, and community partners on this grant opportunity to maximize the capacity to serve and support Latino/Hispanic young children and their families.

OHA will request one 1.0 FTE Limited Duration Project Manager (OPA 3). There is no expectation that the state will continue to fund these activities or positions at the end of the grant period.

The OHA mission is to help people and communities achieve optimum physical, mental and social well-being through partnerships, prevention and access to quality, affordable health care. This grant supports this mission. In addition, this grant directly supports the Public Health Division's State Health's goal of reducing health disparities.

**Action Requested**

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Public Health Division requests authority to accept the federal grant from SAMHSA if the state's application is successful.

**Legislation Affected**

None.

**Additional Information**

For additional information from OHA, please contact Cate Wilcox at [cate.s.wilcox@state.or.us](mailto:cate.s.wilcox@state.or.us) or at 971-673-0299.

Sincerely,



Bill Coulombe  
Budget Director  
Oregon Health Authority

CC: Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Office  
George Naughton, Chief Financial Office  
Linda Ames, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Kate Nass, Chief Financial Office  
Art Ayre, Chief Financial Office