



Office of the Director

Kate Brown, Governor



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February 20, 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 – Capacity Building to Support
Replication of Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs (OHA-PH-15-03)

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Public Health Division requests permission to apply for the Capacity Building to Support Replication of Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs grant for federal funds up to \$750,000 a year for 5 years, beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2020, for a total of up to \$3,750,000.

The intent of the grant is to provide capacity building assistance to youth-serving organizations to implement teen pregnancy prevention programming in communities with high teen birth rates. The funding is available through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Adolescent Health. The request for proposals was received on January 12, 2015, and the application is due on April 1, 2015. This grant funding requires no state matching funds. There is not a federal requirement for maintenance of effort.

Agency Action

The Oregon Public Health Division, Adolescent and School Health Programs, promote the health and well-being of adolescents in Oregon. The Oregon Youth Sexual Health Plan (2009), developed by state agencies, community partners and youth researchers, guides the work of the Youth Sexual Health program. The plan goals are to promote healthy relationships, assure equity, prevent teen pregnancies, reduce sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and reduce relationship violence. Program staff provide technical assistance to county health departments to improve services to youth, work closely with

education partners to assure youth receive accurate information, collaborate with partners to achieve mutual goals and oversee implementation of ¡Cuídate!, an evidence-based HIV/STI and teen pregnancy prevention program.

This grant will continue to provide some of the technical assistance and support services above and improve services to the rural and frontier counties. Counties in Eastern Oregon have over twice the state rate of teen births. This grant opportunity will allow Oregon Public Health Division to provide comprehensive support to these rural areas to build their capacity to address teen pregnancy.

This grant presents an opportunity to expand evidence-based programming to rural and frontier areas. The Youth Sexual Health Program will continue to collaborate with the public-private Oregon Youth Sexual Health Partnership to share information, program strategies and lessons-learned for what works best in rural and frontier areas. We will work closely with the Oregon Department of Education to assure school districts in the program areas have teaching staff adequately trained in comprehensive sexuality education. Staff will work with funded entities to collaborate with coordinated care organizations in each of their service areas. Grant funding will support the State Program in implementation and up to three county health departments.

Funds will be used to support 2.5 positions. An existing permanent Program Analyst 2 (Youth Sexual Health Program Coordinator) will coordinate all grant activities and ensure grant deliverables and outcomes are met. New limited duration positions include a Research Analyst 3 to support the data monitoring and evaluation required by the grant and an Administrative Specialist 1 (half time) to provide the necessary office and staff support to assure grant requirements can be met. The Youth Sexual Health Program Coordinator is a key component of the Oregon Public Health Division's work to reduce teen pregnancy and STIs.

There is no expectation that the state will continue to fund this program at the end of the grant. However, a component of the grant activities will be to determine programmatic sustainability after the five-year 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. Preventing teen pregnancies promotes educational achievement, assures healthier planned births later in life, and saves tax-payer dollars in health and social services costs. This grant will assist Oregon in reducing teen pregnancy in communities with greatest need, our rural and frontier counties.

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Action Requested

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Public Health Division requests authority to accept a “Capacity Building to Support Replication of Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs” grant from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Adolescent Health if the state’s application is successful.

Legislation Affected

No legislation is affected.

For additional information, please call Jessica Duke at 971-673-0242.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William J. Coulombe".

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