

Analysis

Oregon Health Authority

Information Exchange Network Grant Application

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Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the amount of up to \$200,000 over a three-year period to transition to the new federal drinking water data system.

Analysis: The Oregon Health Authority is requesting approval to apply for the National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The grant is for up to \$200,000 over a three-year period, and begins July 31, 2018. The actual agency request, based on grant guidelines for this specific project, is \$120,000.

The current drinking water database system consists of a state database and a federal database. Certain data from the state system is uploaded to the federal database quarterly. These databases include information that identifies regulated public water systems, shows results from laboratory analyses used to verify that water meets standards, and indicates compliance and enforcement actions. The state system also includes information on smaller state regulated water systems that fall below the federal threshold for reporting.

EPA is transitioning these old legacy systems to a new cloud-based system. The state will need to transition to the new federal system, but also needs to maintain a local version of its data. The grant would fund the costs of these system changes. Funds would be used to hire a technical assistance contractor under an EPA Blanket Purchase Agreement. Under this contracting mechanism, the funds would not actually come to the state, but would be administered by EPA to pay the federal contractor to perform the work.

No state matching funds are required for the grant, and there is no federal requirement for maintenance of effort. The grant does not pay for any staff.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: Approve the request to apply for a grant to the Environmental Protection Agency in the amount of up to \$200,000 over a three-year period to transition to the new federal drinking water data system.