

Analysis  
**Oregon Health Authority**  
Oral Health Workforce Grant Application

---

**Analyst:** Linda Ames

**Request:** Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of up to \$400,000 per year for four years to address oral health workforce needs in designated shortage areas.

**Analysis:** The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is requesting approval to apply for the Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. The grant is for up to \$400,000 per year for four years, and begins October 1, 2018. The federal funding is contingent on approval by Congress.

The grant will build on previous work by the agency and the Oregon Health and Science University's School of Dentistry to expand dental services to Oregonians. However, this grant is explicitly focused on addressing workforce issues. Thirty-three of Oregon's 36 counties are designated as a Dental Care Health Professional Shortage Area. If successful, the grant will continue to support the Community Based Dental Student Rotation Program, by providing subsidies for dental preceptors. The grant funding will also be used to expand the capacity of the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund to make additional scholarships available for dental students.

In addition, OHA will use the grant to help test innovative approaches to a community-based recruitment and retention model for oral health providers. The agency will partner with the Office of Rural Health and the OHSU's School of Dentistry to help identify the oral health workforce needs of three to four rural communities within shortage areas, working with the communities to develop customized plans to attract and retain providers. One area of focus will be expanded practice dental hygienists. The agency will also work with OHSU to evaluate the use of teledentistry to expand service in underserved areas.

The grant requires 40% matching state funds, which can be either cash or in-kind services. About \$100,000 per year of this will be met through expenditures out of the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund that are related to dental workforce, while the remaining \$60,000 per year will be met with in-kind time from local dental preceptors in the Community Based Dental Student Rotation Program, and faculty at OHSU.

The agency will need two new limited duration positions - one full-time project manager to manage the grant activities, and a part-time position for administrative support. The limited duration positions related to the old grant phase-out at the end of August 2018.

**Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation:** Approve the request to apply for a grant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of up to \$400,000 per year for four years to address oral health workforce needs in designated shortage areas.