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January 31, 2018

The Honorable Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
The Honorable Nancy Nathanson, 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 – HRSA-18-014: Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Health Policy and Analytics Division requests permission to apply for a federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Health Workforce - Division of Medicine and Dentistry. The grant is for up to \$400,000 per year for 4 years, beginning September 1, 2018, through August 31, 2022, for a total of up to \$1,600,000.

The request for proposals was received on January 11, 2018, and the application is due on March 12, 2018. This grant funding requires 40 percent state matching funds or in-kind services. The matching requirement will be fulfilled with in-kind contributions from the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund and trainee supervisors from community-based clinics overseeing senior dental students. There is no federal requirement for maintenance of effort.

The intent of the grant is to develop and implement workforce programs designed to support states in developing and implementing innovative programs to address the oral health workforce needs of designated Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).

Agency Action

This will be the fourth in a series of HRSA Oral Health Workforce grants applied for by OHA as the designated State Entity eligible to apply on behalf of the State. The Public Health Division has previously held this grant on behalf of the agency. With the current activity underway from the Oregon Health Policy Board's Workforce Committee and the Health Policy and Analytics Division to develop the new Health Care Provider Incentive Program (HB 3261, 2017), the Health Policy and Analytics Division was seen as the more appropriate location for the new grant.

This grant is intended to build on years of work from the Public Health Division to make expanded dental services available to more people and Oregon Health and Science University's School of Dentistry's work to establish a community based rotation program for dental students. First, OHA will leverage federal funds to expand the capacity of the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund and make additional scholarships available for dental students, and modest subsidies for dental preceptors, in support of the Community Based Dental Student Rotation Program.

Additionally, Oregon will use this grant to help to test innovative approaches to a community-based recruitment and retention model for oral health providers, targeting expanded practice dental hygienists in rural areas of the state—planned as a component in the broader strategy to empower communities in their health care workforce recruitment and retention efforts. OHA will partner with the Oregon 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 targeted Dental HPSAs. This will include face-to-face meetings with community stakeholders leading the development of customized plans to attract providers and retain them within the community. We anticipate that creative models for serving patients, including the use of teledentistry and silver diamine fluoride, will be part of the suite of services made available to these rural communities.

Matching funds for the grant will come from the state-funded Oregon Health Care Provider Incentive Fund, overseen by OHA and the Oregon Health Policy Board and in-kind time from local dental preceptors and faculty at OHSU.

Two total positions will be requested for this grant: 1.0 FTE Project Manager (Operations and Policy Analyst 2) to manage all the grant activities and a 0.5 FTE Administrative Support Specialist 1; OHA intends to contract or purchase evaluation activities equal to 0.25 FTE Data/Evaluation Specialist (Research Analyst 3) to oversee the data and evaluation requirements. There is no expectation that the state will continue to fund these activities or positions at the end of the grant period.

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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 directly supports the Health Policy and Analytics Division's efforts around expanding the oral health workforce capacity in the state and aligns with the workforce development activities from the *Strategic Plan for Oral Health in Oregon: 2014-2020* as well as *Oregon's Action Plan for Health* and the work begun under OHA's new Health Care Provider Incentive Program.

Action Requested

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Health Policy and Analytics Division requests permission to apply for the federal grant from HRSA.

Legislation Affected

None.

Sincerely,



Pat Allen
Director

CC: Linda Ames, Legislative Fiscal Office
Tom MacDonald, Department of Administrative Services
George Naughton, Department of Administrative Services
Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Office