

Analysis
Department of Human Services
Kinship Navigator Program

Analyst: Laurie Byerly

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, in the amount of \$301,558 to support kinship navigator program development for the Child Welfare program.

Analysis: The Child Welfare program at the Department of Human Services (DHS) requests approval to apply for federal funding available to help develop kinship navigator programs. These programs assist grandparents and other relatives providing care to children who are unable to live with their parents. The grant's purpose is to help states prepare for the new Title IV-E kinship navigator funding option, which is available under the 2018 Family First Prevention Services Act. Agencies must have a federally reviewed and certified program to receive federal Title IV-E funds.

The DHS proposal is organized into three different strategies: 1) operationalizing the kinship navigator model currently being designed; 2) ensuring, through research and analysis, that the state's model will meet federal certification criteria; and 3) coordinating and consulting with foster care system partners, caregivers, and families. These activities will build on work already underway and paid for with an earlier round of federal grant funding received in fall 2018.

The agency will carry out these efforts through vendor contracts and partnerships with state agencies, while working with other organizations involved with the foster care system; DHS is not requesting new staff to support the grant. The federal dollars do not require state cost-sharing or matching and must be spent on activities completed by September 30, 2020. The requested amount of \$301,558 is consistent with the Oregon allocation under the federal grant's funding formula. The agency's application is due March 15, 2019.

While this specific grant does not require match, for ongoing federal support of a certified kinship navigator program, the state will need to cover 50 percent of program costs. DHS is analyzing budget resources to determine how best to meet that future matching requirement.

If DHS is awarded the grant funding, the agency will submit a future request for any needed Federal Funds expenditure limitation.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: Approve the request.

Department of Human Services Connolly

Request: Authorization to apply for a grant of \$301,558 for Federal Fiscal Year 2019, development of a kinship navigator program from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration on Children, Youth and Families. The Department is also requesting permission to apply for an additional \$80,000 if those funds are made available for reallocation.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Department of Human Services (DHS) is requesting authorization to apply for a one-time federal grant of \$301,558 to be used to develop, enhance or evaluate kinship navigator programs. Kinship navigator programs serve grandparents and other relatives taking responsibility for children in need of a safe and stable placement. The children may or may not be in the child welfare system. The purpose of the programs is to assist kinship caregivers in learning about, finding and using programs and services to meet the needs of the children they are raising and also their own needs; and to promote effective partnerships among public and private agencies to ensure kinship caregiver families are served.

DHS must apply for the grant by March 15, 2019. The Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2019 grant does not require a match of state funds. The funds must be spent on activities conducted by September 30, 2020 and liquidated by December 29, 2020.

Background - FFY 2018 Kinship Navigator Grant

DHS received a FFY 2018 grant for the same purpose in the fall of 2018. The Department received \$301,558 as its base allocation and an additional \$20,128 reallocation amount. The FFY 18 Kinship Navigator Grant has been used by DHS to research kinship navigator models and identify the best options for Oregon. DHS worked with the Portland State University Center for Improvement of Child & Family Services to review the literature and models approved or recommended by federal child welfare entities. Listening sessions were conducted with focus groups of caregiver relatives of children who are both in and out of the child welfare system. They also held sessions with a number of statewide and community organizations and groups. Portland State just released a survey to the participating networks to gather more information. DHS also intends to develop a website, social media platforms and outreach material to be disseminated through non-traditional communication networks.

The Department has reviewed the initial information received from interested parties and determined relative caregivers and other stakeholders prefer a model outside of the government and within a community-based organization, which is supported by the Department's review of literature and other models around the country. Therefore, during the Summer of 2019, the Department intends to solicit for a community-based organization to operate a kinship navigator program, which would start in the Fall of 2019.

FFY 2019 Kinship Navigator Grant

For the FFY 2019 grant covered by this request, DHS will use the funds to operationalize the Oregon Kinship Navigator Model through a contract for services with a community-based organization. The Department will also engage in research, possibly with external researchers to

support its application to obtain certification from the Federal Prevention Services Clearinghouse for Oregon's Kinship model, by the September 30, 2020 deadline imposed by HHS.

This certification will be required to draw down federal funding after 2020. And finally, funding will be used to verify Oregon's ability to provide assurances of Oregon's Kinship Navigator Program meeting the federal objectives. As noted above, there is no state match required.

Funding After Grants End

Prior to receiving the FFY 2018 grant, DHS was not spending funds on this type of activity or population. In 2003, the Department developed information tools for grandparents, which was the last active investment.

The federal government's intent in offering the kinship navigator grants was for states to begin taking advantage of Title IV-E money for kinship navigator programs under the Family First Act passed in February 2018. The federal changes to Title IV-E rules will allow this program to serve relative caregivers prior to any Child Welfare involvement. DHS is developing the kinship navigator program with the intent of accessing Title IV-E funding after the grants end, approximately October 1, 2020.

Title IV-E requires a 50/50 match between federal and state funding. To meet the state match the Department will look toward cross program needs, supports and potential match funding opportunities such as: Child Welfare Relative Caregiver programs, Self Sufficiency Non-Needy Relative program and Seniors & People with Disabilities Family Caregiver Program. DHS will undertake additional analysis and planning for future funding during the second (FFY 2019) grant period.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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February 12, 2019



The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
The Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

RE: Kinship Navigator Program Funding ACYF-CB-PI-19-01

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of Request

The Department of Human Services (DHS) requests permission to apply for the Kinship Navigator Program Funding being offered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. Program Instructions ACYF-CB-PI-19-01. Request for funding must be submitted to the Regional federal office by: **March 15, 2019.**

The purpose of the funding is for one-time funding to support the development, enhancement or evaluation of kinship navigator programs. These are federal fiscal year (FY) 2019 funds, provided as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018, enacted March 23, 2018, and utilized by September 30, 2020. The Oregon allocation is \$301,558.00 and there is an opportunity to request additional funds if they become available.

There is NO match requirement for this grant.

Background

In the Fall of 2018, Oregon Department of Human Services was awarded a one-year grant to begin the development of a Kinship Navigator model for Oregon. This effort is currently underway and is utilizing three strategies:

1. Explore and research Kinship Navigator models and identify the best option(s) for Oregon.
2. Website, Social Media development
3. Outreach materials, dissemination through Non-traditional communication networks

Currently, these efforts are on track with the intention to begin solicitation in early summer 2019 for a community-based organization to operate a Kinship Navigator program in Oregon starting in the fall of 2019.

Most notably in the work thus far, is the collective desire from multiple focus groups, interviews of interested relative caregivers and system stakeholders to have a Kinship Navigator model that is outside the government and within a community-based organization in order for it to be inviting and more accessible. This collective interest is also supported by literature reviews and other models across the country.

Additionally, this early exploration has highlighted that while many systems from children to adults are impacted and attempting to provide some level of support, the mere lack of a statewide cross system and across generations approach is needed in Oregon. This may require an external approach such as a community-based model as well as internal approach to state government consolidating information and resources for relatives caring for children.

Agency Action

Oregon Department of Human Services will lead and actively participate with other public agencies, higher education, community based-organizations and consumers of the services in the delivery and additional development of the Oregon Kinship Navigator model. DHS intends to utilize the grant funding for three distinct Strategies;

1. Operationalize the Oregon Kinship Navigator Model (currently being designed) with a contract for services with a community-based organization.
2. Work to develop the necessary research to obtain certification from the Federal Prevention Services Clearinghouse for Oregon's Kinship model. By September 30, 2020, the Oregon model will need to be accepted as a *Promising Practice, Supported Practice or Well-Supported Practice*, under the federal guidelines that are still in development.

3. Provide assurance that Oregon meets the Federal Kinship Navigator program objectives:
- a) Coordinate with other state agencies, and 211 information systems
 - b) Consult with Kinship caregivers and organizations who support them
 - c) Establish information and referral system
 - d) Outreach to families through materials, websites
 - e) Promote partnerships between agencies, schools, community or faith-based organizations

Action Requested

The Department of Human Services requested permission to apply for the Kinship Navigator Program Funding being offered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. The Department requests permission to apply for the initial allocation of \$301,558.00 and an additional \$80,000 if those funds become available.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/pi1901>

State Legislation Affected

None

For additional information please contact Marilyn Jones, DHS Child Welfare Director 503- 945-6637.

Sincerely,



Eric Luther Moore
DHS Chief Financial Officer

cc: Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Office
Laurie Byerly, Legislative Fiscal Office
George Naughton, Department of Administrative Services
Tamara Brickman, Department of Administrative Services
Cathleen Connolly, Department of Administrative Services