

## Analysis

### Oregon Health Authority

#### Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Program

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**Analyst:** Tom MacDonald

**Request:** Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in the amount of up to \$736,000 per year for five years, for a total of up to \$3,680,000, to support youth suicide prevention and early intervention activities.

**Analysis:** The Public Health Division within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) requests approval to apply for federal funding from the Garrett Lee Smith State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Grant Program. The purpose of this program is to implement youth suicide prevention and early intervention strategies in schools, juvenile justice systems, substance use programs, mental health programs, foster care systems, and other child and youth-serving organizations.

Oregon's strategy for addressing youth suicide is outlined in the state's Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan. OHA has supported this strategy, in part, through previously awarded Garrett Lee Smith grant dollars, which the agency has received twice before. OHA has used this funding to focus on at-risk youth who live in five Oregon counties with youth suicide rates above the national average, specifically Deschutes, Josephine, Jackson, Umatilla, and Washington counties. Consistent with the grant's objectives, Oregon's previous awards have supported the following activities:

- Gatekeeper training - increasing the number of individuals in youth-serving organizations who are trained to identify and help youth at risk of suicide.
- Clinical training - increasing the number of clinicians trained to treat youth at risk of suicide.
- Continuity of care - improving the continuity of care of youth at risk of suicide.
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline / Zero Suicide Initiative - promoting the use of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and increasing the number of health systems that implement the national Zero Suicide Initiative, which is a framework for enhancing suicide care.

If successful with its application, OHA will leverage the next round of grant funding to build upon these initiatives in the current five counties for the first year of the new grant period. OHA will then select new grantees through a competitive process to expand youth suicide prevention and intervention activities in additional regions.

The federal grant application is due no later than March 18, 2019 for the next five-year grant period beginning June 30, 2019. The grant does not require state cost-sharing or matching funds and OHA will not need new positions if awarded funding. The agency will return to the legislature if adjustments to Federal Funds expenditure limitation are needed in relation to the grant proposal.

**Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation:** Approve the request.

## Oregon Health Authority Breanna McGehee

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**Request:** Authorization to apply for a five year \$3,680,000 federal grant from the Garrett Lee Smith State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Grant Program to continue funding for the Center for Prevention and Health Promotion’s Injury and Violence Prevention Section to support the Oregon Health Authority’s youth suicide prevention initiatives.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** The Oregon Health Authority’s Public Health Division is requesting approval to apply for the Garrett Lee Smith State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Grant Program for funds up to \$736,000 a year for five years, beginning June 30, 2019 and ending June 29, 2024 for a total of up to \$3,680,000. This grant is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and provides continuing funds for youth suicide prevention initiatives, focusing on systems, environmental and policy approaches.

Matching funds are not a requirement of the grant. There is no additional expenditure limitation required for this grant and no new positions are being requested.

Major goals of the grant are to support community and state-level initiatives to prevent youth suicides; identify youth at risk; ensure referral to mental services; and mitigate the impact of youth suicides upon families, peers and communities in Oregon.

Funding will be used to:

- Increase and support the number of health systems newly implementing the Zero Suicide initiative
- Expand systems approach into broader communities by means of multi-sector partnerships
- Engage the Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Human Services in Zero Suicide implementation via the Cross Agency Health Improvement Project
- Implement systems-level youth suicide prevention and early intervention strategies in schools, educational institutions, juvenile justice systems, substance use programs, mental health programs, foster care systems, and other child and youth-serving organizations

### Background – GLS State/Tribal Youth Suicide Grant

OHA received this grant opportunity over the last two project periods. Receiving funding for another five years would build upon and continue a large body of youth suicide prevention work coordinated through the Oregon Health Authority’s Public Health Division’s Injury and Violence Prevention Section known as the Oregon Caring Connections Initiative.

In the past year, this initiative trained more than 2,700 health and mental health professionals and members of the public as suicide prevention “gatekeepers” with the skills to identify young people at risk for suicide and support them in accessing the resources they need to stay safe. Grant funding has also helped to fund various state suicide prevention conferences, promoted use of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, contributed to the development and implementation of the Oregon Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan and supported 16 health systems in establishing suicide-safer systems of care by implementing the evidence based Zero Suicide initiative. Renewed funding would build upon and expand the current programs and help other successful initiatives.



Office of the Director

Kate Brown, Governor



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February 28, 2019

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

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

### **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Public Health Division requests permission to apply for the Garrett Lee Smith State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Grant Program for funds up to \$736,000 a year for 5 years, beginning June 30, 2019, and ending June 29, 2024, for a total of up to \$3,680,000.

The intent of the grant is to support implementation of youth suicide prevention and early intervention strategies in schools, mental health and substance use programs, and other child- and youth-serving organizations in Oregon. The request for proposal was received on January 18, 2019, and the application is due March 18, 2019. Funding is available through the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services. This grant funding requires no state matching funds and does not have a federal requirement for maintenance of effort.

### **Agency Action**

OHA has competed for and received this grant opportunity in the last two project periods. Receiving funding for another five years would build upon and continue a large body of youth suicide prevention work coordinated through the OHA Public Health Division's Injury and Violence Prevention Section known as the Oregon Caring Connections Initiative. In the past year, this initiative—through funding agencies in Deschutes, Josephine, Jackson, Umatilla, and Washington counties—trained more than 2,700 health and mental health care professionals and members of the public as suicide prevention “gatekeepers” with the skills to identify young people at risk for suicide and support them in accessing the resources they need to

stay safe. Grant funding has also helped to fund several state suicide prevention conferences, contributed to development and implementation of the Oregon Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan, promoted use of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and supported 16 health systems in establishing suicide-safer systems of care by implementing the evidence-based Zero Suicide initiative. Renewed funding would build upon and expand these and other successful initiatives.

There is no additional expenditure limitation required for this grant and no new positions are being requested.

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 funding opportunity supports the OHA mission by supporting community- and state-level initiatives to prevent youth suicides; identify youth at risk; ensure referral to mental health services; and mitigate the impact of youth suicides upon families, peers, and communities in Oregon. This opportunity is aligned with the *State Health Improvement Plan* suicide prevention priority area, and with the *Oregon Public Health Division Strategic Plan* goal to promote healthy and resilient environments to improve quality of life. It also supports the *Public Health Modernization Plan* strategy of establishing new and innovative service delivery models with health care partners.

### **Action Requested**

The OHA Public Health Division requests permission to apply for the Garrett Lee Smith State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

### **Legislation Affected**

None.

The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson  
The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward  
The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield  
February 28, 2019  
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For additional information, please contact Injury and Violence Prevention Section Manager Laura Chisholm at 971-673-0987 or [laura.f.chisholm@state.or.us](mailto:laura.f.chisholm@state.or.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. Allen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Patrick M. Allen  
Director

EC: Tom MacDonald, Legislative Fiscal Office  
George Naughton, Department of Administrative Services  
Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Office