

Analysis

Oregon Health Authority

Data for Overdose Prevention and Surveillance Strategies

Analyst: Tom MacDonald

Request: Approve the submission of a federal Overdose Data-to-Action grant application from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the amount \$10,010,970 over a three-year period to support overdose prevention and surveillance strategies.

Analysis: The Overdose Data-to-Action grant opportunity provides up to \$3.34 million per year for three years, for a total of approximately \$10 million, to support the collection of morbidity and mortality data to enhance overdose prevention and response efforts. This opportunity will help continue and expand activities currently funded through an annual \$2.6 million Prescription Drug Overdose grant awarded in 2016 to OHA's Public Health Division from the CDC. This existing grant, which ends August 31, 2019, has supported opioid addiction and overdose prevention efforts across nine Oregon regions (25 counties) deemed as "high burden" in terms of the opioid epidemic. These funds have helped establish local community overdose coalitions, develop prescribing guidelines for pain management, provide pain management education for clinicians, and support other activities to prevent prescription drug overdoses.

The Overdose Data-to-Action grant will build on this effort through two primary initiatives:

1. Surveillance – collecting and reporting emergency department data on drug overdoses and implementing strategies to support interventions; and
2. Prevention – strengthening prescription drug monitoring programs, improving state-local integration, establishing better connections to treatment, and improving health system support.

Within this approach, OHA will use funds to establish data sharing agreements with communities, enhance capacity at the local level to collect and respond to real-time overdose cluster data, conduct data quality audits, develop local overdose emergency response plans, and train peer support specialists, among other activities. The agency will carry out this work by partnering with Tribes, local public health authorities, hospitals, law enforcement, and other key stakeholders. OHA also plans to establish five new full-time permanent positions to implement and manage the activities required by the grant.

If OHA is successful with its grant application, the agency will separately seek approval to establish these positions and adjust its level of Federal Funds expenditure limitation, as needed. The federal grant application is due May 2, 2019 for the three-year grant period starting September 1, 2019. The grant does not have a state match or maintenance of effort requirement.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: Approve the request.

Oregon Health Authority McGehee

Request: Authorization to apply for the Overdose Data to Action grant from the Center for Disease Control's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Public Health Division is requesting approval to apply for the Overdose Data to Action grant from the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control for funds up to \$3,336,990 a year for a total of up to \$10 million for three years, beginning September 1, 2019 and ending August 31, 2022. This grant is administered by CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control and provides continuing funds for the collection and reporting of data related to fatal and nonfatal overdoses. Additionally, the funding will be used to prevent overdoses by establishing connections to care for people with opioid dependency and addiction, establishing and maintaining local and regional overdose prevention coalitions, and supporting health care providers and health systems in prevention overdoses.

The scope of required activities for overdose surveillance and prevention grants has increased significantly since the Injury and Violence Prevention section first received funding for this work. The OHA may request five new full-time equivalent positions to effectively manage the required activities of the Overdose Data to Action grant.

The request for applications was received on February 6, 2019 and the application is due May 2, 2019. This grant requires no state matching funds and does not have a federal requirement for maintenance of effort.

Background – Overdose Data to Action grant

The OHA's 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's mission by enabling Oregon's communities to use timely, high-quality data to effectively address the epidemic of overdoses from opioids and other substances.

The OHA was first funded by the CDC to address prescription drug overdose in 2016. This grant has provided the OHA opportunity to support Oregon's communities in establishing local overdose coalitions; hosting regional and statewide opioid summits; developing and promoting consensus prescribing guidelines that are changing standard medical practice and culture around pain management; providing coaching and technical assistance for health care systems as they implement the guidelines; offering pain education for clinicians through the Oregon Pain Management Commission; and encouraging safe prescribing practices within the Oregon Health Plan.



Office of the Director

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March 25, 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 Overdose Data to Action funding opportunity and requests position authority for five new permanent positions to carry out the work of this grant. This cooperative agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will fund up to \$3,336,990 a year for 3 years, beginning September 1, 2019, and ending August 31, 2022, for a total of up to \$10.0 million.

This new funding opportunity will build upon and significantly expand the work currently funded under the CDC Prescription Drug Overdose grant, which ends on August 31, 2019. The Data to Action grant will enhance the quality and timeliness of data collection and reporting for fatal and nonfatal overdoses. It will also prevent overdoses by establishing linkages to care for people with opioid dependency and addiction, establishing and maintaining local and regional overdose prevention coalitions, and supporting health care providers and health systems in preventing overdoses.

The request for applications was received on February 6, 2019, and the application is due on May 2, 2019. Funding is available through the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. This grant funding requires no state matching funds and does not have a federal requirement for maintenance of effort.

Agency Action

Since the agency was first funded by CDC to address prescription drug overdose in 2016, OHA has become recognized as a national leader in systems-based approaches to combat the epidemic. OHA has supported Oregon's communities in establishing local overdose coalitions via nine regional grants; hosted regional and statewide opioid summits; developed and promoted consensus prescribing guidelines that are changing standard medical practice and culture around pain management; provided coaching and technical assistance for health care systems as they implement the guidelines; offered pain education training for clinicians through the Oregon Pain Management Commission; and encouraged safe prescribing practices within the Oregon Health Plan.

OHA also supports safe and effective non-opioid pain management and is actively increasing access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and naloxone rescue for opioid overdose. In addition, the agency runs the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to support safe opioid prescribing and collects and reports a variety of opioid-related data to inform policy decisions.

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 enabling Oregon's communities to use timely, high-quality data to effectively address the epidemic of overdoses from opioids and other substances. This opportunity is aligned with the *State Health Improvement Plan* priority of reducing harms associated with substance use, and with the *Oregon Public Health Division Strategic Plan* goal to promote healthy and resilient environments to improve quality of life.

Action Requested

The OHA Public Health Division requests authority to apply for the Overdose Data to Action grant from the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. OHA also requests position authority for five new permanent full time equivalent (FTE) positions within the Public Health Division's Injury and Violence Prevention Program. These positions will enable the agency to undertake the following new activities required for the grant:

- Administrative Specialist 1 (1 FTE) – *Data Abstractor* to abstract overdose mortality data from law enforcement and medical examiner records and input it into the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System.
- Administrative Specialist 2 (1 FTE) – *Program Support Specialist* to coordinate contracting processes, plan and schedule meetings, coordinate travel, and support grant administration.
- Operations and Policy Analyst 3 (1 FTE) – *Overdose Informatics Coordinator* to establish overdose data use agreements between OHA, counties and tribes, and build local capacity for syndromic surveillance of overdose.
- Operations and Policy Analyst 3 (1 FTE) – *Evaluation Coordinator & Community Partner Liaison* to manage program evaluation contracts and oversee tribal and LPHA grantee prevention initiative agreements.
- Research Analyst 3 (1 FTE) – *Overdose Surveillance Coordinator* to oversee required innovative surveillance projects.

Scope of required activities for overdose surveillance and prevention grants has increased dramatically since the Injury and Violence Prevention section first received funding for this work. Without additional staff, the agency will not be able to effectively manage the required activities of the Overdose Data to Action grant.

Legislation Affected

None.

For additional information, please contact Injury and Violence Prevention Section Manager Laura Chisholm at 971-673-0987 or laura.f.chisholm@state.or.us.

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Allen
Director

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