

Analysis  
**Oregon Health Authority**  
Cancer Genomics Program

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**Analyst:** Tom MacDonald

**Request:** Approve the submission of a federal grant application from the Oregon Health Authority to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the amount of \$1,650,000 to support strategies for the prevention of hereditary cancer.

**Analysis:** The Public Health Division requests approval to apply for the next three-year period of the CDC Cancer Genomics Program: Translating Research into Public Health Practice cooperative agreement grant. This opportunity provides up to \$550,000 per year over a three-year period, for a potential total award of \$1,650,000, to address the utilization of cancer genetic services as a strategy for cancer prevention and control. The expected outcomes of the grant are to: 1) increase screening of cancer family history; and 2) increase the use of genetic counseling and testing for hereditary cancer syndromes, specifically Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Syndrome and Lynch Syndrome, among individuals meeting recommendations for referral. To achieve these outcomes, recipients are expected to support the following key activities:

- Increase organizational capacity to address public health priorities in cancer genomics;
- Expand and develop surveillance systems to measure the hereditary cancer burden;
- Educate the public on family cancer history as a risk factor for cancer;
- Educate providers about family history screening and refer patients to cancer genetic services; and
- Develop partnerships to facilitate policy and systems changes that increase access to, and use of, cancer genetic services.

Although the CDC anticipates making only five awards under this opportunity, OHA's Public Health Division has received this grant since 2008. If awarded new funds, the agency will carry out the grant's objectives by leveraging Public Health's existing ScreenWise program, which works with a statewide network of providers to provide breast, cervical, and hereditary cancer services to help prevent and detect cancer. OHA will use grant dollars to partially support the costs of five existing ScreenWise positions (2.50 FTE), as well as the work done by community partners. The agency will not need additional staff.

The federal grant application is due April 15, 2019 for the next three-year grant period starting August 30, 2019. The grant does not have a state match or maintenance of effort requirement. The agency will return to the legislature if an adjustment to Federal Funds expenditure limitation is needed.

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

# Oregon Health Authority McGehee

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**Request:** Authorization to apply for the Cancer Genomics Program: Translating Research into Public Health federal grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** The Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Public Health Division is requesting approval to apply for the Cancer Genomics Program: Translating Research into Public Health federal grant from CDC for annual funds between \$250,000 and \$550,000, for a total amount between \$750,000 and \$1,650,000 for a three year project period, beginning August 30, 2019. This grant is administered by CDC and provides continuing funds for the ScreenWise Program, which has contracts with a statewide network of providers offering breast, cervical, and hereditary cancer services for low-income, uninsured and underinsured Oregonians. These initiatives will increase access to services and the utilization of coverage for this population. The grant funding would support current staff in the existing program.

The proposed funding opportunity will be used to facilitate policy and systems change to increase public awareness of risk for hereditary cancer; increase screening of family history as a cancer risk factor; and increase referrals to and use of genetic counseling and testing for hereditary cancer syndromes, specifically Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Syndrome and/or Lynch Syndrome.

This grant requires no state matching funds and there is no expectation that the state will continue to fund the grant activities at the end of the project period.

## Background – Cancer Genomics Program: Translating Research into Public Health

The Public Health Division has received consecutive funding awards since 2008 to support exploration of the public health role in promotion and prevention of hereditary cancer. The ScreenWise program aims to address the gap in culturally and linguistically appropriate educational materials and referral resources for hereditary cancer services in agencies primarily servicing our priority populations and surveillances activities to monitor the burden of hereditary cancer in communities.



Office of the Director

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon  
**Health**  
Authority

500 Summer Street NE E20

Salem, OR 97301

Voice: 503-947-2340

Fax: 503-947-2341

TTY: 503-947-5080

March 27, 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 Cancer Genomics Program: Translating Research into Public Health competitive cooperative agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This federal grant opportunity provides annual funding between \$250,000 and \$550,000 for a total amount of \$750,000 to \$1,650,000 for a three-year project period, beginning August 30, 2019.

The request for applications was received on February 19, 2019. The application is due on April 15, 2019. The grant requires no state matching funds and there is no expectation that the state will continue to fund the grant activities at the end of the project period.

No additional positions would be needed to carry out grant activities. Grant funding would support existing staff at the following levels.

- ScreenWise Genetics Coordinator: Program Analyst 3 (1.0 FTE)
- ScreenWise Epidemiologist: Epidemiologist 2 (.70 FTE)
- ScreenWise Program and Data Analyst: Program Analyst 2 (0.25 FTE)
- ScreenWise Access Coordinator: Program Analyst 2 (0.25 FTE)
- ScreenWise Program Support: Administrative Specialist 1 (0.10 FTE)

### **Agency Action**

The Public Health Division has received consecutive funding awards since 2008 to support exploration of the public health role in promotion and prevention of hereditary cancer. The proposed funding opportunity for this cycle is intended to facilitate policy and systems change to:

- Increase public awareness of risk for hereditary cancer
- Increase screening of family history as a cancer risk factor
- Increase referrals to and use of genetic counseling and testing for hereditary cancer syndromes, especially Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer (HBOC) Syndrome and/or Lynch Syndrome (LS), among individuals meeting recommendations for referral

All four strategies align with the ScreenWise Program's initiatives and priority populations. ScreenWise, formerly the Oregon Breast and Cervical Cancer Program, is housed within the Adolescent, Genetics and Reproductive Health Section of OHA's Public Health Division. ScreenWise collaborates with a statewide network of providers that offer breast, cervical, and hereditary cancer services for low-income, uninsured and underinsured Oregonians to increase access to services and the utilization of coverage.

Hereditary cancer syndromes increase an individual's cancer risk and may present as multiple primary cancers, cancers diagnosed at advanced stages, and cancers diagnosed at younger ages. In addition to increased cancer risk for the individual, family members have a high probability of carrying the same gene mutations. Individuals at high risk for hereditary cancer syndromes can be identified through evidence-based and consensus medical guidelines, yet most people with hereditary cancer syndromes remain undiagnosed.

Disparities in diagnosis remain related to access to genetic services, coverage for genetic services, and hesitancy to use genetic service based on previous population oppression or mistreatment. This is compounded by a higher prevalence of mutation in African Americans, Hispanics, and Ashkenazi Jews. The ScreenWise Program's primary population will include African American and Hispanic communities experiencing disparities in hereditary cancer.

The ScreenWise program aims to address the gap in culturally and linguistically appropriate educational materials and referral resources for hereditary cancer services

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in agencies primarily serving our priority populations and surveillance activities to monitor burden of hereditary cancer in communities.

Cancer prevention and control activities support the OHA mission of helping people and communities achieve optimum physical, mental and social well-being. This work is consistent with current ScreenWise work within the foundational program of prevention and health promotion. In addition, this work aligns with, and will use, the public health foundational capabilities of leadership and organizational competencies, health equity and cultural responsiveness, community partnership development, assessment and epidemiology, policy and planning, and communications.

**Action Requested**

The OHA Public Health Division requests permission to apply for the CDC Cancer Genomics Program: Translating Research into Public Health federal grant.

**Legislation Affected**

None.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Helene Rimberg, the Adolescent, Genetic, and Reproductive Health Section Manager, at (971) 673-0364 or [helene.m.rimberg@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:helene.m.rimberg@dhsosha.state.or.us).

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Allen  
Director

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