

Analysis

Oregon Health Authority

Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health

Analyst: Tom MacDonald

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) in the amount of \$4,000,000 over five years to support the development of infants and children through the Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health (LAUNCH) grant opportunity.

Analysis: The Public Health Division requests approval to apply for funding under the Project LAUNCH program, which is an initiative that promotes the wellness of children from birth through age eight. Given the grant's strong connection to early childhood development, OHA is partnering with the Early Learning Division to develop the grant application and coordinate grant activities. OHA first received Project LAUNCH funding in 2009 and has invested these resources in select geographic areas based on community needs.

The predominant goal of the program is to help children enter and succeed in school by: 1) addressing the social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and behavioral aspects of infants and children; and 2) strengthening the capacity of adult caregivers to promote healthy social and emotional development, and prevent mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders in young children. To achieve this, grantees are required to invest funds in several core activities, including:

- Screening for behavioral and developmental concerns;
- Training parents to help create healthy environments;
- Integrating behavioral health into primary care settings and improving coordination across the childcare system;
- Supporting mental health consultations; and
- Raising public awareness related to childhood development.

These activities complement many of the strategies currently supported by home visiting programs. OHA views Project LAUNCH as an opportunity to expand these strategies to reach more families and satisfy unmet demand. Given limited resources, the agency anticipates investing new Project LAUNCH funding in single region and leveraging an Early Learning Hub to coordinate work at the local level. OHA also anticipates needing an additional position to manage grant activities, coordinate community relationships, and satisfy federal reporting requirements.

The federal grant application is due April 19, 2019 for the next five-year grant period starting August 31, 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: The Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Public Health Division is requesting authorization to apply for the Linking Action to Unmet Children's Health Needs (LAUNCH) federal grant of up to \$800,000 per year, for a maximum of \$4,000,000 over a five year period.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The OHA Public Health Division, in partnership with the Early Learning Division, is requesting approval to apply for the Linking Action to Unmet Children's Health Needs (LAUNCH) grant for funding up to \$800,000 a year for five years, beginning August 31, 2019 and ending September 30, 2024, for a total of up to \$4,000,000. This grant is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and provides funds to build capacities of adult caregivers of young children to promote healthy social and emotional development, prevent mental, emotional and behavioral disorders, and identify and address behavioral concerns before they develop into serious emotional disturbances.

Goals of the grant are to address the development of social, emotional, cognitive, physical and behavioral aspects of children from birth to 8 years of age. This program intends to provide local communities or tribes the opportunity to disseminate effective and innovative early childhood mental health practices and services, ultimately leading to better outcomes for young children and their families.

Grantees will be required to conduct screening and assessments; provide family and parent training; integrate behavioral health into primary care settings; provide mental health consultations; establish an oversight council; and raise public awareness and education related to early childhood development and mental health.

The grant does not require state match or maintenance of effort; however, it does require employment of one full-time program coordinator to manage grant activities, coordinate community relationships and report progress to federal partners. If the grant application is successful, OHA intends to request position authority and Federal Funds expenditure limitation at a future date.



Office of the Director

Kate Brown, Governor



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April 4, 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 Linking Action to Unmet Children's Health Needs (LAUNCH) grant offered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in partnership with the Early Learning Division (ELD).

This federal funding opportunity is designed to build capacities of adult caregivers of young children to promote healthy social and emotional development, prevent mental, emotional and behavioral disorders, and identify and address behavioral concerns before they develop into serious emotional disturbances. The award would fund up to \$800,000 a year for up to five years, beginning August 31, 2019, and ending September 30, 2024, for a total of up to \$4,000,000.

The funding announcement was released February 19, 2019. The application is due April 19, 2019. Receipt of the grant does not require state match or maintenance of effort; however, it does require employment of one full time program coordinator. OHA would need a new Operations and Policy Analyst 3 position to manage grant activities, coordinate community relationships, and report progress on the grant to federal partners. To the extent you approve the submission of the grant application and the agency receives the grant, OHA will separately request position authority and Federal Funds limitation at a future date.

Agency Action

The purpose of the LAUNCH grant program is to promote the wellness of young children, from birth to 8 years of age, by addressing the social, emotional, cognitive, physical and behavioral aspects of their development. It is expected that this program will provide local communities or tribes the opportunity to disseminate effective and innovative early childhood mental health practices and services, ultimately leading to better outcomes for young children and their families. Grantees will be required to:

- Conduct screening and assessment to ensure the early identification of behavioral and developmental concerns using validated screening instruments and include screening for other behavioral health issues, such as perinatal/maternal depression and substance misuse among parents (including opioid use), as appropriate;
- Provide family and parent training to help parents, guardians, and family caregivers provide healthy, safe, and secure environments in which young children can learn and grow;
- Integrate behavioral health into primary care settings to equip providers with the knowledge, skills, and resources to address issues related to young children's and caregivers' behavioral health within primary care settings;
- Provide mental health consultation in early care and education to ensure that child care and educational settings provide optimal learning environments for 6 young children;
- Establish an oversight council that will provide support to the project;
- Improve coordination and collaboration across child- and family-serving systems and programs; and,
- Raise public awareness and education related to early childhood development and mental health.

All these required activities align with the ELD Raise Up Oregon strategic plan and planned work of OHA. In addition, both the ELD and OHA have infrastructure to support the success of this grant. The grant requires the State Agency to partner with a local community to implement the required work.

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. The aim of the public health system is to promote health and prevent disease and disability. The LAUNCH grant requirements of

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timely assessment of developmental, behavioral and maternal depression, parent training to promote healthy, safe and secure environments where they can learn and grow and mental health consultation for early care providers to stabilize child care placements support the OHA mission and aim of public health systems. Further, they align well with the goals of the ELD to assure that children arrive ready for kindergarten, are raised in healthy, stable and attached families, and that the system of supports is coordinated and family centered. For this reason, the application for funding is being made in partnership with the OHA as the lead applicant.

Action Requested

The OHA Public Health Division requests permission to apply for the Linking Action to Unmet Children's Health Needs (LAUNCH) grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Legislation Affected

None.

For additional information, please contact Cate Wilcox, Maternal and Child Health Section Manager, at (971) 673-0299 or cate.s.wilcox@dhsosha.state.or.us.

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Allen
Director

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