

## ANALYSIS

### Item 3: Oregon Health Authority Transformation Transfer Initiative

---

**Analyst:** Matt Stayner

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors in the amount of \$750,000 to support activities directly related to implementing and expanding 988 and crisis services during the 2024 federal fiscal year.

**Analysis:** This grant opportunity is not a standard federal grant program. The Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) is a program developed between the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD), a private, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) membership organization. The funding for the program is facilitated through an Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract with a task order award between SAMHSA and NASMHPD. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) provided the Legislature of its notice of intent to apply for the funding on September 29th. The grant application was due on October 10th.

In the current grant period, there will be 50 awards of \$250,000 to states and territories covering five topics directly related to implementing and expanding 988 and crisis services. OHA has applied for funding under two of these topics:

1. Establishing same day/rapid access to behavioral health care for crisis prevention and follow-up care
2. Crisis care and suicide prevention for high-risk populations.

With guidance provided from NASMHPD, two separate areas of focus within the second category, one for Latino Communities and one for Black Youth are included in the application, making a total of three distinct Transformation Transfer Initiative component awards applied for. In conjunction with the TTI grant awards, NASMHPD also provides direct and contracted technical assistance to states with subject matter experts and provides a forum for interstate program discussion.

The initial performance period runs through August 2024, with monthly project status reports due from grant recipients during the interim and a final report due at the end of August. The intent is that remaining grant funds at the end of the initial performance period will be retained by the state and combined with existing budgetary resources to continue the TTI funded work beyond the grant performance period. OHA received a TTI grant award of \$250,000 for FFY 2023. This effort focused on developing and initiating a consistent, streamlined, and centralized source for crisis response training.

No additional position authority will be required. Expenditure authority for awarded grant funds, if required, will be requested during the upcoming legislative session.

**Recommendation:** The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means approve the request.

03  
Oregon Health Authority  
Heath

---

**Request:** Retroactive authorization for the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to apply for a \$750,000 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant to address mental health issues in Oregon.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** OHA requests retroactive authorization to apply for a \$750,000 SAMHSA Transformation Transfer Initiative grant for three purposes: \$250,000 to augment training and program development work for the 988 and mobile crisis workforce, \$250,000 for crisis care and suicide prevention coalition building for Black youth, and \$250,000 for crisis care and suicide prevention training for the Latino/a/x communities.

OHA has identified a number of possible activities within each of the above three categories it may fund should the grant be awarded. Grant funds are one-time in nature and OHA plans to use the funds to build workforce, organizational, and community capacity rather than to directly provide behavioral health services. If awarded, OHA will contract out the grant funds to carry out the activities of the grant. The grant was announced on September 8, 2023, the agency provided a 10-day notice on September 29, 2023, and applications were due on October 10, 2023. There is no match or maintenance of effort required for the grant.



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon  
Health  
Authority

500 Summer St. NE E-20

Salem, OR 97301

Voice: 503-947-2340

Fax: 503-947-2341

[www.oregon.gov/oha](http://www.oregon.gov/oha)

October 9, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

### **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Office of Behavioral Health Services requests retroactive permission to apply for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) grant opportunity offered by the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

OHA was notified of the grant opportunity on September 8, 2023, and the grant application will be submitted on the due date, October 10, 2023. OHA provided 10-day notice on September 29, 2023. The request for retroactive authorization aligns with the Legislature's process requirements in effect at the time of the grant application, which resulted in OHA submitting the request letter during the interim legislative days.

The TTI grant opportunity is a single grant program that includes five components, each with a maximum award of \$250,000 per component. OHA intends to apply for three components, and the maximum amount OHA would receive if awarded is \$750,000 in a single-year performance period. No state match is required and no increased or new staffing levels will come from being awarded these funds. Activities and services included in the application will be supported by current staffing levels.

For FFY 2024, SAMHSA will award a total of 50 \$250,000 TTI awards to states and territories. States may receive funding for more than one component. The awards will be made to support the following five (5) components directly related to implementing and expanding 988 and crisis services:

1. Establishing same day/rapid access to behavioral health care for crisis prevention and follow-up care.
2. State strategies to improve the capacity of the behavioral healthcare workforce.
3. Improving access to supported employment for transition-age youth.
4. Crisis care and suicide prevention for high-risk populations (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, American Indian/Alaskan Native individuals, LGBTQIA+ individuals, individuals with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities, deaf/hard of hearing, children and adolescents, etc.).
5. Improving the interoperability between 911 and 988.

### **Agency Action**

The OHA Office of Behavioral Health Services previously received a TTI grant award of \$250,000 for FFY 2023. This effort focused on developing and initiating a consistent, streamlined, and centralized source for training: the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Training Academy. The Academy supports training for the workforce in phone crisis intervention, Community-Based Mobile Crisis Intervention Services, Mobile Response and Stabilization Services, and facility-based stabilization services in the community. The applications for FFY 2024 TTI grants will be for a distinct and unique body of work, and not a continuation of the previous year's services awarded in FFY 2023.

The following three TTI grant components support OHA's goal to eliminate health inequities by 2030 by focusing efforts in communities experiencing pronounced behavioral health inequities. To that end, initial planning began through behavioral health programs and teams upon receipt of the grant opportunity. The application that will be submitted is in alignment with both OHA's strategic goal and the intent of the grant funds:

- *Crisis Prevention* — Category 1: Establishing same-day/rapid access to behavioral health care for crisis prevention and follow-up care.
- *Suicide Prevention for Black Youth* — Category 4: Crisis care and suicide prevention for high-risk populations (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, American Indian/Alaskan Native individuals, LGBTQIA+ individuals, individuals with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities, deaf/hard of hearing, children and adolescents, etc.).

- *Suicide Prevention in Latino/a/x Communities* — Category 4: Crisis care and suicide prevention for high-risk populations (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, American Indian/Alaskan Native individuals, LGBTQIA+ individuals, individuals with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities, deaf/hard of hearing, children and adolescents, etc.).

OHA's Office of Behavioral Health Services is seeking approval from the Committee to apply for three distinct TTI component awards at \$250,000 each, for a total of \$750,000. Details about each application/proposal can be found below.

*Crisis Prevention: 988 and Mobile Response Connection for Children, Youth, and their Families Application:*

If funded, the \$250,000 component award will pay for activities and initiatives that support children, youth, and their families who call 988 for support by call, text, or chat, as well as mobile response dispatches. Potential activities include:

- Develop and provide trainings for 988 call center staff that focus on the use of age and developmentally appropriate screenings for youth and young adults under the age of 20.
- Provide training to 988 call center staff on the Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) model and best practices. The focus will be adhering to the fidelity model of MRSS and training call center staff to dispatch at the request of children, youth, and their families.
- Develop a workflow in conjunction with call center staff, OHA staff, and Community Mental Health Programs staff to ensure fidelity to the MRSS model and distribute training materials to staff to ensure adherence to the model and the workflow developed.
- Implement Nurtured Heart Approach trainings for call center staff. Trainings in this model will be used to strengthen engagement skills with children, youth, and families from a strength-based approach.
- Retain a national expert in MRSS to train call center staff on the importance of adhering to the MRSS model for long-term success.
- Develop trauma-informed care model in conjunction with Trauma Informed Oregon to focus on the unique issues faced by children, youth, and their families in a crisis setting for call center staff.

*Suicide Prevention for Black Youth Application:*

If funded, the \$250,000 component award will pay for activities identified by the Black Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition launch team. This team attended SAMHA's first-ever Black youth suicide prevention policy academy in July 2023 and has been working with OHA's support to launch a statewide coalition to address the problem of Black youth suicide in Oregon. Potential activities include:

- Supporting a Black youth wellness project called Life-sustaining Practices Fellowship [program](#) with Dr. Kenjus Watson and Dr. Tiffani Marie by offering travel support for potential Black leaders outside of the Portland Metro area. And, supporting the pilot interventions that the fellows develop over the course of that project with funds to implement.
- Stipends for Black youth suicide prevention coalition members, particularly youth
- Development of resource guide for culturally relevant and safe resources for the Black community around Oregon
- A Black youth suicide prevention media campaign
- Funds to hold town hall events regionally to listen to community members and highlight the work

*Suicide Prevention in Latino/a/x Communities Application:*

If funded, the \$250,000 component award will pay for activities and initiatives that support Latinx/e communities in suicide prevention and that strengthen Oregon's current suicide prevention effort's ability to be culturally specific. Potential activities include:

- Recruiting (and supporting, and retaining) culturally and linguistically specific trainers in the suicide prevention [Big River](#) programs. Potentially with stipends for these trainers.
- Increasing support and availability of Big River programs in Spanish.
- Increasing the availability of the course "Latine Considerations for Suicide Prevention," which is a 3-hour course that is being developed by Raices de Bienestar for providers in English. It is scheduled to be available in October or November 2023.
- Increase the availability of "Suicide Prevention for Traditional Health Workers" – this course is held virtually with a live instructor in Spanish.
- Supporting the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide's BIPOC Caucus.

October 9, 2023

Page 5 of 5

**Action Requested**

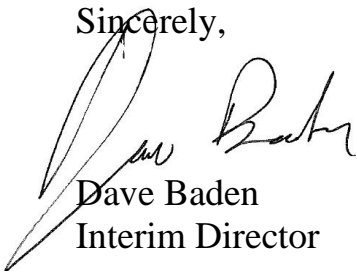
OHA requests retroactive approval for applying to this federal grant. The application will be submitted to SAMHSA on October 10, 2023.

OHA will not be requesting additional FTE for this funding opportunity if awarded.

**Legislation Affected**

None.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Baden", is written over the printed name and title.

Dave Baden  
Interim Director

EC: Matt Stayner, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Patrick Heath, Department of Administrative Services  
Kate Nass, Department of Administrative Services  
Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Office