

ANALYSIS

Oregon Health Authority CDC SPAN Program

Analyst: Steve Robbins

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the amount of \$6.5 million for the “State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SNAP)” grant opportunity.

Analysis: The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) would utilize the funds from this grant to address the chronic diseases in Oregon by improving nutrition and increasing physical activity among all community in Oregon. As a result, funds will be used to prevent and reduce the burden (and disparity in rates) of disease by providing recipients the support and flexibility to work on governmental public health systems, including local public health systems and community-based organizations, to implement evidence-based strategies and leverage resources from multiple stakeholders and sectors (agriculture, transportation, education, business, commerce, housing, etc.).

Chronic disease disparities are evident in higher risk factors due to geographic location, histories of discrimination, and socio-economic status. These funds would be used to bolster collaboration between public health, health systems and community partners to reduce overall demands on Oregon’s health care system.

The current State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), focused on addressing upstream health factors and the agency’s current strategic objective of eliminating health inequities can be impacted by funds supporting public health modernization efforts, to include reviewing and improving systems, policy, and strategy at the local and state level.

Grant funds will be used to work with a strong cross-section of partners in the health and wellness communities to include Multnomah County, Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Oregon Community Food Systems Network, the Oregon Farm to Institution Collaboration, and the Health Active Oregon Coalition to focus on addressing racial disparities.

In addition, this opportunity would leverage existing partnerships with local public health agencies, the Oregon State University Extension Service, Oregon’s ten Regional Health Equity Coalitions, Coordinated Care Organization, the Oregon Department of Transportation, The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and more, to:

- Improve nutrition standards for workplaces,
- Increase supports for breastfeeding,
- Improve physical activity and nutrition standards for early childhood education settings, and
- Increase opportunities for physical activity through active transportation.

No state match is required, and the funding is not subject to federal maintenance of effort requirements.

If funded, OHA will request permanent position authority for one Program Analyst 2, and one Research Analyst 3, both of which would be funded 50% by this grant and 50% by other existing federal chronic disease grants.

CDC announced the grant on January 27, 2023, and the application is due March 28, 2023. OHA provided timely notice to the Legislature on March 8, 2023. If awarded, the grant will begin September 29, 2023, and will offer funding for five years (\$1.3 million annually) through September 28, 2028.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval.

Oregon Health Authority Heath

Request: Authorization to apply for a five year, \$6,500,000 grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program grant to improve nutrition and increase physical activity in Oregon.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) requests authorization to apply for a five year, \$6,500,000 CDC grant to improve nutrition and increase physical activity in Oregon. Grant applicants can choose different strategies under the grant, including developing nutrition policies to promote food service and nutrition guidelines and healthy food procurement or coordinating the expansion and use of fruit and vegetable vouchers, developing policies to encourage pedestrian, bicycle or public transportation, developing policies to provide continuity of care to breastfeeding families, or developing policies to implement national standards regarding nutrition, physical activity, and breastfeeding to early care and education programs.

If awarded, OHA would use the funds to hire an additional Program Analyst 2 (1.00 FTE) and Research Analyst 3 (0.50 FTE) to coordinate with state and local public health, health system, and community-based organizations to implement evidence-based interventions for reducing physical inactivity and improving nutrition. This work will develop capacity and cross-sector collaborations at the state and local level for advancing policy, systems, and environment change strategies for helping all people in Oregon maintain optimal health across the lifespan. OHA is also working to align the grant work with the strategies of Oregon's State Health Improvement Plan, a five-year plan to address social determinants of health and disparities in health outcomes in Oregon.

OHA was notified of the grant on January 27, 2023, with applications due on March 28, 2023. The grant would run from August 30, 2023 to August 29, 2028. The grant does not require a match or maintenance of effort. If the grant is awarded, OHA will return to the appropriate legislative body to request position authority.



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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March 8, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
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 requests permission to apply for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) Program. This grant opportunity would provide OHA up to \$6,500,000 federal funds over the five year performance period (\$1,300,000 annually), beginning September 29, 2023, and ending September 28, 2028, for a total of up to. OHA learned of this funding opportunity the day the grant opportunity was announced by CDC, January 27, 2023. The application due date is March 28, 2023.

The intent of this grant is to support state investments to prevent and reduce the burden, and disparities in rates, of chronic diseases in Oregon by improving nutrition and increasing physical activity among all communities in Oregon. This five-year program provides recipients the support and flexibility to work on governmental public health systems in the state, including at the local levels, to readily implement evidence-based strategies and to leverage resources from multiple stakeholders and sectors (e.g., agriculture, transportation, education, business, commerce, housing, etc.) to improve the nutrition and physical activity status of people in Oregon.

This funding opportunity will help OHA and its partners reduce burden of chronic diseases related to physical inactivity and poor nutrition, including diabetes, heart disease, stroke, cancer, depression, arthritis, and others. It will do so by supporting OHA's ability to work with state and local public health, health system, and community-based organizations to implement evidence-based interventions for reducing physical inactivity and improving nutrition, particularly among populations

that have a higher risk of chronic diseases due to factors such as geographic location, histories of discrimination, or socio-economic status. Collaboration between public health, health systems, and community partners will prevent and lessen the incidence and severity of disease, reduce health disparities, reduce demands on the health care system, and improve the health of all communities in Oregon.

In addition to supporting OHA's efforts to transform health care in Oregon this work will also support public health modernization by developing capacity and cross-sector collaborations at the state and local level for advancing policy, systems, and environment change strategies for helping all people in Oregon maintain optimal health across the lifespan. The objectives of the funding opportunity also support the State Health Improvement Plan's (SHIP) emphasis on addressing upstream factors and root causes of health inequities, and will help move Oregon towards OHA's strategic objective of eliminating racial health disparities in Oregon by 2030. Proposed grant funded initiatives will address both the SHIP and OHA's strategic objective by addressing two priority goals in the SHIP:

- Ensure that all people in Oregon live, work, play in a safe and healthy environment and have equitable access to stable, safe, affordable housing, transportation and other essential infrastructure so that they may live a healthy resilient life.
- Increase equitable access to culturally appropriate nutritious food regardless of social or structural barriers by addressing the underlying issues in food availability.

In addition, OHA will ensure that chosen strategies and activities are closely aligned with other partners focusing on addressing racial disparities, including the Multnomah County Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health program, the Oregon Department of Human Services' Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education program, the Oregon Community Food Systems Network, the Oregon Farm to Institution Collaboration, and the Healthy Active Oregon Coalition.

This new funding opportunity aims to build on Oregon's current work and maximize reach in local communities with a targeted focus on working with multiple partners to implement four strategies: improving nutrition standards for workplaces; increasing supports for breastfeeding; improving physical activity and nutrition standards for early childhood education settings; and increasing opportunities for physical activity through active transportation. Partnerships to be leveraged include those that OHA

already has with local public health agencies, the Oregon State University Extension Service, Oregon's ten Regional Health Equity Coalitions, Coordinated Care Organizations, the Oregon Department of Transportation, The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, etc.

Agency Action

Upon notification of this funding opportunity, OHA convened meetings with partners to identify current and related initiatives to build off, and seek input on, potential activities and strategies to include in the proposed work plan. OHA staff also assessed the potential to align grant activities with other chronic disease prevention initiatives. Partners confirmed the need for this funding and are helping identify and refine OHA's proposed work plan.

Action Requested

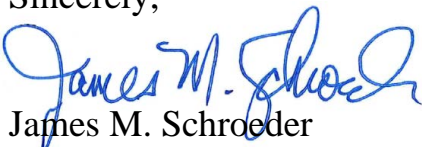
OHA requests permission to apply for the State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program federal grant from the CDC.

This grant funding requires no state matching funds. There is no federal requirement for maintenance of effort. If funded, OHA will request permanent position authority for two staff—one program analyst 2 that will be fully funded by this grant, and a research analyst 3 that will be funded 50 percent by this grant and 50 percent by other federal chronic disease grants.

Legislation Affected

None.

Sincerely,


James M. Schroeder
Interim Director

EC: Steven Robbins, Legislative Fiscal Office
Patrick Heath, Department of Administrative Services
George Naughton, Department of Administrative Services
Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Office