

ANALYSIS

Oregon Health Authority SAMHSA Strategic Prevention Framework

Analyst: Steve Robbins

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for the Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success for States (SPF-PFS) program in the amount of up to \$6.25 million to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Analysis:

The SAMSHA SPF-PFS grant program aims to help reduce the onset and progression of substance misuse and its related problems by supporting the development and delivery of state and community substance misuse prevention and mental health promotion services. A majority of the grant funds must go to local partners to support the expansion of community prevention providers utilizing evidence-based programs in an effort to promote substance use prevention throughout the state for individuals, families, and communities. The goal is to strengthen Oregon's capacity to identify and address substance use prevention concerns, such as underage drinking, marijuana, tobacco, electronic cigarettes, opioids, methamphetamine, and heroin. Deliverables include utilizing public health data to identify underserved communities, identifying prevention priorities, and developing and implementing strategies to prevent the misuse of substances.

The objectives of the grant program support the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), called Healthier Together Oregon, by addressing elements identified in the Alcohol Drug policy Commission's strategic plan, and will support public health modernization efforts by improving capacity and collaboration.

If funded, OHA will request position authority for 2 new positions (1.00 FTE). One Operations and Policy Analyst 3 (0.50 FTE) will be funded by the grant and will provide leadership while partnering with internal and external stakeholders. A Research Analyst 4 (0.50 FTE) also will be funded by the grant to provide support related evaluation needs. Both grant positions and FTE values are required to receive grant funds.

SAMHSA announced the grant on April 3, 2023, and the application is due June 5, 2023. OHA provided timely notice to the Legislature on May 16, 2023. If awarded, the grant will begin September 30, 2023, and will offer funding for five years (up to \$1.25 million annually) through September 29, 2028. No state match is required.

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

Oregon Health Authority Heath

Request: Authorization to apply for a grant of up to \$1,250,000 per year over five years from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for the Oregon Health Authority's substance abuse prevention program.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) requests authorization to apply for a five year, \$1,250,000 per year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant to increase substance abuse prevention services in Oregon. According to SAMHSA's 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 20 percent of Oregon adults reported using controlled substances in a way that met the clinical criteria for a substance use disorder diagnosis, the eighth highest rate in the country. OHA currently has \$10.0 million budgeted statewide in 2021-23 for substance abuse prevention activities through the federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant.

If awarded, OHA would use the grant funds to engage with community partners to determine which prevention activities to engage in. The grant requires applicants to spend the first year planning the intervention, conducting a community needs assessment, and putting together an action plan, while the remaining four years of the grant will be used to make the targeted investments and evaluate the results of the planned activities. Grant investments may be focused on specific geographies or populations and could include investments such as educational programming, advertising, or local policy initiatives targeted towards reducing problematic substance use behaviors. If awarded, OHA would return to the appropriate legislative body to request three positions to implement the grant, including a grant coordinator (1.00 FTE), a research and evaluation position (0.50 FTE), and a fiscal analyst (0.50 FTE) to assist with grant contracting, disbursements, and reporting.

The grant does not have a match or maintenance of effort requirement. OHA was notified of the grant on April 5, 2023. Applications are due on June 5, 2023. The grant would run from September 2023 to September 2028. Funding for the grant is competitive, with recipients from the 2021 and 2022 rounds of funding for this grant ineligible to apply.



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Tina Kotek, Governor

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May 16, 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 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success for States (SPF-PFS) funding opportunity. This five-year grant opportunity would provide OHA up to \$1,250,000 in federal funds annually for a total of up to \$6,250,000. State match is not required. The grant will support activities between September 30, 2023, and September 29, 2028. OHA learned of this funding opportunity on April 5th, 2023, two days after it was announced on April 3, 2023. The application due date is June 5, 2023.

The purpose of the SPF-PFS program is to help reduce the onset and progression of substance misuse and its related problems by supporting the development and delivery of state and community substance misuse prevention and mental health promotion services. This program promotes substance use prevention throughout a state jurisdiction for individuals, families, and communities. At least 60% of grant funds must go out to local partners, which will support the expansion of local community prevention providers to implement evidence-based programs. This funding will strengthen state and community-level prevention capacity to identify and address local substance use prevention concerns, such as underage drinking, marijuana, tobacco, electronic cigarettes, opioids, methamphetamine, and heroin. To implement this new program, OHA will be expected to utilize local, state, and national substance use public health data to identify underserved communities, identify prevention priorities in their state, and develop and implement strategies to prevent the misuse of substances.

This funding opportunity will also help OHA and its partners reduce burden of diseases and health inequities related to excessive alcohol use and related harms and substance

use disorders. It supports OHA's ability to identify and address local substance use prevention needs, such as underage drinking, marijuana, tobacco, electronic cigarettes, opioids, methamphetamine, and heroin, and to identify and better meet the needs of underserved communities that bear a disproportionate burden of poor health related to alcohol related harm and substance use disorders. 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 program, policy, systems, and environment change strategies that help all people in Oregon maintain optimal health across the lifespan. The objectives of the funding also support the State Health Improvement Plan's (SHIP) – Healthier Together Oregon – by addressing upstream factors and root causes of health inequities, and multiple strategies identified in the Alcohol Drug Policy Commission's Strategic Plan. Collectively, these efforts will help move Oregon towards OHA's strategic goal of eliminating health inequities in Oregon by 2030.

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 evidence-based strategies for preventing and reducing alcohol and substance abuse across the lifespan. Partnerships to be leveraged include those that OHA already has with local public health agencies, community-based organizations, tribes and tribal serving organizations, mental and behavioral health providers and advocates, and others.

Agency Action

Upon notification of this funding opportunity, OHA initiated planning with internal and external 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 are also assessing the potential to align grant activities with other prevention initiatives, as well as new infrastructure being developed through Oregon's Behavioral Health Resource Networks (BRNS).

Action Requested

OHA requests permission to apply for the SPF-PFS federal grant from the SAMHSA.

Senator Elizabeth Steiner
Representative Tawna Sanchez
May 16, 2023
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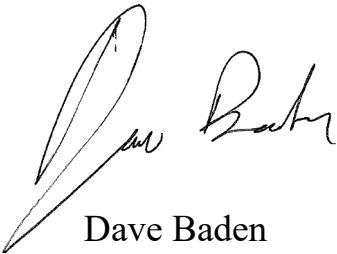
If funded, OHA will request position authority for three new positions, totaling 2 FTE. Positions to be requested include:

- Operations and Policy Analyst 3 (1 FTE) to work with internal and external partners to provide strategic leadership for the work. This position will be fully funded by this grant.
- Research Analyst 4 (0.5 FTE) to support related surveillance and evaluation needs. This position will be funded equally by this grant and other federal grant funds.
- Fiscal Analyst 2 (0.5 FTE) to provide fiscal support for distribution of funds to local partners. This position will be funded equally by this grant and other federal grant funds.

Legislation Affected

None.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Baden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

Dave Baden
Interim Director

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