

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Bill 2977**

Ordered by the House April 7  
Including House Amendments dated April 7

Sponsored by Representatives PHAM H, BYNUM; Representatives BOWMAN, CHAICHI, DEXTER, HUDSON, PHAM K, REYNOLDS, RUIZ, Senator CAMPOS (at the request of Washington County) (Pre-session filed.)

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Requires [*Higher Education Coordinating Commission, in collaboration with*] Oregon Health Authority[,] to establish grant program for purpose of distributing moneys to institutions of higher education **and organizations that administer training programs** to develop **training and instructional** programs that prepare students to enter into behavioral health workforce. **Appropriates moneys from General Fund to authority to carry out grant program. Establishes timelines for distributing funds to approved grant applicants.**

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission, in collaboration with State Workforce and Talent Development Board, [*and Oregon Health Authority, to establish grant program to award grants to local workforce development boards that promote workforce development in field of behavioral health*] **to establish behavioral health workforce development program to be administered by local workforce development boards.**

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission to carry out provisions related to [*grant*] **workforce development** programs. **Establishes timelines for distributing funds to local workforce development boards for purposes of administering workforce development program.**

**Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission and Oregon Health Authority to meet certain reporting requirements concerning use of grant funds and progress and outcomes of behavioral health workforce development programs.**

Requires Oregon Health Authority to collect and report data regarding recipient use of incentives provided for recruitment and retention of behavioral health workforce and to collect data regarding grants awarded by authority to provide supervised clinical experience for certain behavioral health care providers.

Establishes oversight council to advise Oregon Health Authority in identifying and eliminating systemic barriers that influence funding, allocation of funding and policy choices with respect to behavioral health workforce.

**Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to behavioral health workforce development; and prescribing an effective date.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 4 of this 2023 Act are added to and made a part of ORS 660.300**  
5 **to 660.364.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:**

7 (a) "Community college" has the meaning given that term in ORS 341.005.

8 (b) "Institution of higher education" means:

9 (A) A public or private college or university.

10 (B) A community college.

11 (C) A nonprofit college or university.

12 (c) "Nonprofit college or university" means a college or university that is exempt from  
13 **federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that is accred-**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 ited by a regional accrediting association or a national successor of the accrediting associ-  
2 ation.

3 (d) “Training program” means a course of study that results in certification, licensure  
4 or other credentials recognized in the field of behavioral health.

5 (e) “University” includes:

6 (A) A public university listed in ORS 352.002.

7 (B) Oregon Health and Science University.

8 (C) An Oregon-based private university, including out-of-state private universities that  
9 have campuses located in Oregon.

10 (2) The Oregon Health Authority shall establish a grant program for the purpose of dis-  
11 tributing moneys to institutions of higher education, and organizations that administer  
12 training programs, to develop training and instructional programs that prepare students to  
13 enter into the behavioral health workforce.

14 (3) Moneys awarded to a grant recipient under subsection (2) of this section may be used  
15 for:

16 (a) Scholarships or other tuition assistance for students going into the field of behavioral  
17 health.

18 (b) Developing pathways to employment opportunities in the field of behavioral health.

19 (c) Recruitment and outreach efforts to increase the number of students training for and  
20 entering into the behavioral health workforce.

21 (d) Job training and instruction for behavioral health occupations.

22 (4)(a) The Oregon Health Authority shall establish by rule criteria and standards by  
23 which an institution of higher education or an organization that administers training pro-  
24 grams may apply for and receive a grant award. At a minimum, the rules must:

25 (A) Include a methodology for reviewing and approving grant applications;

26 (B) Establish grant application periods that enable the authority to distribute grant funds  
27 in accordance with grant distribution requirements established under section 3 of this 2023  
28 Act; and

29 (C) Require that any grant moneys awarded to an institution of higher education must  
30 be used for training programs administered in this state.

31 (b) The authority shall award grants based on the ability of the applicant to use the grant  
32 as required under subsection (3) of this section.

33 (5) A recipient of grant moneys under this section shall compile and submit information  
34 to the Oregon Health Authority as deemed necessary by the authority to enable the author-  
35 ity to meet the reporting requirements under sections 8 and 11 of this 2023 Act.

36 (6) The Oregon Health Authority may adopt any rules necessary for the implementation  
37 and administration of this section.

38 **SECTION 3.** The Oregon Health Authority shall distribute the funds specifically appro-  
39 priated to the authority under section 6 of this 2023 Act to approved institutions of higher  
40 education, and organizations that administer training programs, at the conclusion of a grant  
41 application period established under section 6 of this 2023 Act, but not later than July 1, 2024.  
42 If unallocated funds remain at the conclusion of the grant acceptance period, the authority  
43 may establish a supplemental grant period and distribute the unallocated funds no later than  
44 July 1, 2025.

45 **SECTION 4.** (1) As used in this section, “institution of higher education” has the meaning

1 given that term in section 2 of this 2023 Act.

2 (2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall, in consultation with the State  
3 Workforce and Talent Development Board, establish a behavioral health workforce develop-  
4 ment program for the purpose of promoting workforce development in the field of behavioral  
5 health.

6 (3) The program shall be administered by local workforce development boards. The local  
7 workforce development boards shall:

8 (a) Connect with employers in the field of behavioral health to identify training and  
9 workforce needs and ensure that the business needs relating to a skilled behavioral health  
10 workforce are met.

11 (b) Collaborate with high schools, employers, institutions of higher education and other  
12 organizations within the field of behavioral health to:

13 (A) Develop training opportunities for individuals seeking entry into the field of behav-  
14 ioral health.

15 (B) Connect individuals with employment opportunities in the field of behavioral health.

16 (c) Distribute resources and available funds to entities that collaborate with local  
17 workforce development boards to promote behavioral health workforce development activ-  
18 ities that may include, but need not limited to:

19 (A) Providing scholarships or other tuition assistance for students going into the field  
20 of behavioral health.

21 (B) Developing pathways to employment opportunities in the field of behavioral health.

22 (C) Supporting recruitment and outreach efforts to increase the number of students  
23 training for and entering into the behavioral health workforce.

24 (D) Providing job training and instruction for behavioral health occupations.

25 (4) The commission, in consultation with the State Workforce and Talent Development  
26 Board, shall oversee the progress of the program.

27 (5) Each local workforce development board shall compile and submit to the commission:

28 (a) Data on the progress of the behavioral health workforce development activities im-  
29 plemented by a local workforce development board under this section; and

30 (b) Any other information as may be deemed necessary by the commission by rule to  
31 enable the commission to meet the reporting obligations under section 10 of this 2023 Act.

32 (6) The commission may adopt any rules necessary for the implementation and adminis-  
33 tration of this section.

34 **SECTION 5.** (1) Not later than 120 days following the effective date of this 2023 Act, the  
35 Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall distribute the funds specifically appropri-  
36 ated to the commission under section 7 of this 2023 Act to local workforce development  
37 boards to administer the behavioral health workforce development program established un-  
38 der section 4 of this 2023 Act.

39 (2) The commission shall distribute all moneys made available under section 7 of this 2023  
40 Act to local workforce development boards using the same formula as required under the  
41 federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) for the allocation  
42 of funds to local workforce development boards.

43 **SECTION 6.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-  
44 ated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the  
45 General Fund, the amount of \$5,000,000, for carrying out the provisions of section 2 of this

1 2023 Act.

2 **SECTION 7.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-  
3 ated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1,  
4 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$5,000,000, for carrying out the provisions of  
5 section 4 of this 2023 Act.

6 **SECTION 8.** Not later than September 1 of each year the Oregon Health Authority shall  
7 submit a report, in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, setting forth in detail the progress  
8 and outcomes of the provisions of section 2 of this 2023 Act, to the interim committees of  
9 the Legislative Assembly related to health.

10 **SECTION 9.** Not later than September 1 of each year, the Higher Education Coordinating  
11 Commission shall submit a report, in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, setting forth in  
12 detail the progress and outcomes of the provisions of section 4 of this 2023 Act, to the in-  
13 terim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health.

14 **SECTION 10.** (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall annually submit  
15 to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health, no later than Sep-  
16 tember 1 of each year, information related to grants awarded under section 4 of this 2023  
17 Act and the use of grant funds. The commission shall include with the submitted information  
18 an anonymous and aggregated list of the students who received tuition assistance or schol-  
19 arships funded by the grant moneys awarded to their institutions of higher education under  
20 section 4 of this 2023 Act, categorized by the students':

- 21 (a) Age;
- 22 (b) Ethnicity;
- 23 (c) Gender;
- 24 (d) Race;
- 25 (e) Disability;
- 26 (f) Language spoken;
- 27 (g) Sexual orientation; and
- 28 (h) County of residence.

29 (2) As used in this section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning given that  
30 term in section 2 of this 2023 Act.

31 **SECTION 11.** (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall annually submit to the interim  
32 committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health, no later than September 1 of each  
33 year, information related to grants awarded to institutions of higher education and organ-  
34 izations that administer training programs under section 2 of this 2023 Act and the use of  
35 grant funds. The authority shall include with the submitted information an anonymous and  
36 aggregated list of the students who received tuition assistance or scholarships funded by the  
37 grant moneys awarded to their institutions of higher education and organizations that ad-  
38 minister training programs under section 2 of this 2023 Act, categorized by the students':

- 39 (a) Age;
- 40 (b) Ethnicity;
- 41 (c) Gender;
- 42 (d) Race;
- 43 (e) Disability;
- 44 (f) Language spoken;
- 45 (g) Sexual orientation; and

1 (h) County of residence.

2 (2) As used in this section, “institution of higher education” and “training program” have  
3 the meanings given those terms in section 2 of this 2023 Act.

4 **SECTION 12.** (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall collect and report geographic data  
5 and data described in ORS 413.164 and on the recipients of incentives under ORS 675.655.

6 (2) Any entity that contracts with the Oregon Health Authority to administer incentives  
7 under ORS 675.655 shall collect and biannually report to the authority data described in ORS  
8 413.164 on the recipients of the incentives.

9 (3) Each recipient of a grant under ORS 675.658 shall collect and biannually report to the  
10 Oregon Health Authority data described in ORS 413.164 on the associates or other individuals  
11 receiving clinical supervision from the grantee.

12 (4) The Oregon Health Authority shall prescribe by rule the form and manner for re-  
13 porting the data collected under this section. The authority shall enter data received under  
14 this section into the data system described in ORS 413.163.

15 (5) Data collected and reported under this section may be disclosed only in the aggregate  
16 and in a form that does not allow for the personal identification of individuals whose data is  
17 disclosed.

18 **SECTION 13.** In addition to the requirements for data collection and reporting under  
19 section 12 of this 2023 Act, the Oregon Health Authority shall annually submit to the interim  
20 committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health, not later than September 1 of each  
21 year, an anonymous and aggregated list of licensed providers that received grant moneys  
22 under ORS 675.658 and the associates or other individuals receiving clinical supervision from  
23 the grantee, categorized by:

24 (1) Age;

25 (2) Ethnicity;

26 (3) Gender;

27 (4) Race;

28 (5) Disability;

29 (6) Language spoken;

30 (7) Sexual orientation;

31 (8) County of residence; and

32 (9) County in which the clinical supervision occurred.

33 **SECTION 14.** (1) An oversight council is established to advise the Oregon Health Au-  
34 thority in carrying out ORS 675.650, 675.655 and 675.658. The council shall assist the authority  
35 in identifying and eliminating systemic barriers that influence the funding, allocation of  
36 funding and policy choices with respect to the behavioral health workforce. The authority  
37 shall provide the council with regular, ongoing updates on the implementation of ORS  
38 675.650, 675.655 and 675.658 and other programs designed to expand access to behavioral  
39 health providers in this state, including information about deadlines for program applicants,  
40 outreach plans and strategies to increase participation in the programs, application pro-  
41 cesses and the demographics of individuals receiving incentives or benefits.

42 (2) The council consists of 19 members appointed as follows:

43 (a) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members of the  
44 council from among the members of the House of Representatives.

45 (b) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members of the council from among

1 the members of the Senate.

2 (c) The Governor shall appoint:

3 (A) Two representatives of county governments;

4 (B) One representative of community mental health programs;

5 (C) Two representatives of the federally recognized Indian tribes in this state;

6 (D) Two academic professionals with expertise in equity, behavioral health or workforce  
7 development;

8 (E) Two representatives of labor unions that represent professionals in the field of be-  
9 havioral health;

10 (F) Three individuals with practical experience in one or more of the following fields:

11 (i) Treatment for substance use disorder, gambling addiction or other addictive behav-  
12 iors;

13 (ii) Mental health treatment;

14 (iii) Post-secondary or adult education;

15 (iv) Primary and secondary education; or

16 (v) Child care or early learning; and

17 (G) Three individuals who are one or more of the following:

18 (i) An individual who experiences racism or racial injustice;

19 (ii) A resident of an area that is underserved in access to behavioral health treatment  
20 or a resident of a rural area of this state;

21 (iii) An advocate for equity or an equity professional;

22 (iv) A bilingual or non-English speaker;

23 (v) An individual with life experience in seeking or receiving mental health care;

24 (vi) An individual with life experience with substance use, problem gambling or addiction;

25 (vii) A culturally specific peer support worker or traditional health worker;

26 (viii) An individual who has experienced challenges in joining or advancing in the behav-  
27 ioral health workforce;

28 (ix) A student who has lived experiences with, or a demonstrated understanding of, issues  
29 facing Black or Indigenous communities or other communities of color; or

30 (x) An individual with a disability.

31 (3) A majority of the voting members of the council constitutes a quorum for the trans-  
32 action of business.

33 (4) Official action by the council requires the approval of a majority of the voting mem-  
34 bers of the council.

35 (5) The council shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

36 (6) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-  
37 ment to become immediately effective.

38 (7) The council shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or  
39 of a majority of the voting members of the council.

40 (8) The council may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the council.

41 (9) The authority shall provide staff support to the council and shall make and publish  
42 recordings of each meeting.

43 (10) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the council are nonvoting mem-  
44 bers of the council and may act in an advisory capacity only.

45 (11) Members of the council who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are enti-

1 tled to stipends in amounts sufficient to compensate them for their time and for ancillary  
2 costs, such as child care, necessary for them to attend the meetings and to reimbursement  
3 for travel and other expenses reasonably incurred by them in carrying out their official du-  
4 ties as provided in ORS 292.495.

5 (12) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist  
6 the council in the performance of the duties of the council and, to the extent permitted by  
7 laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the council  
8 consider necessary to perform their duties.

9 SECTION 15. This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023  
10 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

11