



Legislative Fiscal Office
 83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
 2025 Regular Session

Prepared by: Michael Graham
 Reviewed by: Kim To
 Date: February 6, 2025

Bill Title: Relating to providing for the mental health needs of the agricultural workforce; declaring an emergency.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Summary of Fiscal Impact

2025-27 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Higher Education Coordinating Commission	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	-	-
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	-	-

2027-29 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Higher Education Coordinating Commission	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-

Measure Description

The measure appropriates \$2 million General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission in the 2025-27 biennium for distribution to the Oregon State University (OSU) Foundation to endow the Rural Mental Health Fund to support the operations of the AgriStress Helpline in Oregon.

Fiscal Analysis

The measure appropriates \$2 million General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). HECC will distribute this one-time funding to the OSU Foundation to endow the Rural Mental Health Fund. The Foundation anticipates investing this funding and providing investment earnings annually to the OSU Extension Service to continue operating the AgriStress Helpline.

Established by SB 955 (2023), the AgriStress Helpline is a crisis hotline dedicated to providing mental health services to farmers, farm workers, ranchers, fishermen, foresters, and their families. The \$2 million provided by this measure will supplement the one-time \$300,000 General Fund appropriation provided by SB 955 to establish an endowment to implement and operate the AgriStress Helpline. The current estimated cost of operating the Helpline is \$68,000 per year (\$136,000 per biennium). It is assumed that the additional \$2 million for the endowment will yield sufficient interest earnings to fund the operations of the AgriStress Helpline indefinitely.

Relevant Dates

The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on July 1, 2025.