



Legislative Fiscal Office  
83<sup>rd</sup> Oregon Legislative Assembly  
2025 Regular Session

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**Bill Title:** Relating to the behavioral health workforce; declaring an emergency.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:** Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Public Universities, Community Colleges, Oregon Health and Science University, Counties

### Summary of Fiscal Impact

2025-27 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Higher Education Coordinating Commission	\$ 27,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,500,000	2	0.66
<b>Total Fiscal Impact</b>	<b>\$ 27,500,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 27,500,000</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.66</b>

2027-29 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Higher Education Coordinating Commission	\$ 27,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,500,000	2	0.75
<b>Total Fiscal Impact</b>	<b>\$ 27,500,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 27,500,000</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.75</b>

- The fiscal impact does not include duplicative Other Funds expenditure limitation necessary to expend General Fund revenue deposited by the measure into the Higher Education Behavioral Health Workforce Expansion Fund. Additional Other Funds expenditure limitation will be needed to properly budget for the impact of the measure if it is adopted.

### Measure Description

The measure establishes the Higher Education Behavioral Health Workforce Expansion Fund. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) shall distribute moneys from the fund to community colleges, private universities, public universities, and Oregon Health and Science University to implement programs at those institutions that will expand the training, employment, and retention of behavioral health professionals. Colleges and universities may use the funds to, among other things, hire and retain behavioral health faculty; provide scholarships or stipends to students to enroll in behavioral health programs; expand existing behavioral health programs; and develop new behavioral health programs. To receive a scholarship or stipend, a student must be enrolled in specified programs to receive a health care certificate or license.

HECC shall distribute moneys from the fund each biennium to each institution based on a distribution formula. The measure directs HECC to establish an advisory committee to assist HECC with determining the distribution formula. Each college and university receiving moneys under the proposed program must report to HECC each year on the progress and outcomes of the moneys received. The measure also requires HECC to report each year to interim legislative committees related to behavioral health on the progress and outcomes of the moneys distributed. The measure appropriates \$25.7 million General Fund to HECC in the 2025-27 biennium to the implement the proposed behavioral health grant program.

**Fiscal Analysis**

The measure appropriates \$25.7 million General Fund to HECC in the 2025-27 biennium for transfer into the newly established Higher Education Behavioral Health Workforce Expansion Fund, which is continuously appropriated to HECC to implement and administer the proposed behavioral health grant program. HECC will distribute moneys in the fund to public universities, community colleges, private universities, and OHSU to expand the training, employment, and retention of behavioral health professionals. HECC will need additional Other Funds expenditure limitation in the 2025-27 biennium to distribute grants from the fund and cover its administrative costs.

To administer the program, HECC will need two part-time, permanent positions (0.66 FTE), which includes one Program Analyst 3 to assist with developing the formula, provide technical assistance on allowable activities, and prepare the annual legislative report; and one Research Analyst 4 to compile the data received from colleges and universities into a cohesive report. The estimated total cost of these positions, including position-related services and supplies, is \$275,300 Other Funds in the 2025-27 biennium and \$319,199 Other Funds in the 2027-29 biennium.

Colleges and universities will receive moneys from HECC to augment programs, establish new programs, and support scholarships. In exchange for these moneys, colleges and universities must report to HECC annually on their use of the moneys and the outcomes achieved. Some of the information that colleges and universities will be required to report, such as sexual orientation, disability, and language, is not typically collected in general student information surveys, so they will need to modify these surveys. While this reporting requirement will create additional administrative costs for each institution, it is assumed to have minimal fiscal impact.

The measure is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact on counties.

**Relevant Dates**

The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

Beginning on June 30, 2026, colleges and universities must report annually to HECC by June 30 of each year.

Beginning on September 1, 2026, HECC must report annually to interim legislative committees related to behavioral health.