



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services

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December 14, 2009

The Honorable Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
The Honorable Peter Buckley, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048



Re: Retroactive Request to Apply – Competitive Grant – ARRA Funded -
Communities Putting Prevention to Work: Obesity/Physical
Activity/Nutrition (DHS-PH-46-A)

Nature of the Request

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Public Health Division is requesting retroactive approval to apply for federal funds available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for the Communities Putting Prevention to Work: Obesity/Physical Activity/Nutrition grant for federal funding of up to \$8 million over 24 months beginning February 2010 and ending February 2012.

The funding is available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The request for applications was received on September 17, 2009, with a due date of December 1, 2009. This grant funding requires no state matching funds or maintenance of effort beyond the grant period.

Agency Action

The purpose of the Communities Putting Prevention to Work grant is to implement evidence-based policy and environmental changes to reduce risk factors, prevent or delay chronic disease, and promote wellness through addressing obesity, physical inactivity, poor nutrition, and tobacco use/exposure.

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The grant funds are available to state health departments to coordinate an application with two local jurisdictions that serve populations with fewer than 500,000 people. An application process was developed with representation from local health departments and DHS. Selection was based on the project plans submitted and the capacity demonstrated by the local health department. Benton and Lane Counties were selected from local health department applications to participate in the grant application with DHS. With leadership and technical support from DHS, each county will implement broad-based policy changes to create healthier communities through policy, systems, organizational, and environmental changes in communities and schools.

County and DHS efforts will focus on evidence-based strategies, including hard hitting counter-advertising for sugar-sweetened beverages, limiting access to unhealthy foods, increasing availability of healthy foods, promoting healthy options at the point of purchase, and providing support for healthy policies through existing school, workplace, and neighborhood groups. The grant requires that seventy-five percent of the award funding must be distributed to the identified county health departments.

If we are successful in securing maximum funding for this grant, six limited duration FTE will be needed within the Public Health Division of DHS to provide policy guidance, training, technical assistance, and research analysis to local communities. Staffing levels will be adjusted based on the final award and negotiation with CDC.

This funding opportunity does not require any maintenance of effort by the state and there is no expectation that the state will fund these activities at the end of the grant period. CDC is requiring that the work funded by these awards be focused on adoption of policies that will be sustainable after the funding ends. We are aware, however, of two recently mandated Oregon legislative reports related to obesity prevention that recommend substantial investment in evidence-based interventions including nutrition policy, worksite health promotion, and enhancing the built environment to promote physical activity. If state funding is made available to support these reports, it could conceivably support continuation of one or more of these activities.

This grant is the result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Action Requested

The Oregon Department of Human Services Public Health Division requests permission to apply for federal funds available through ARRA for the Communities Putting Prevention to Work: Obesity/Physical Activity/Nutrition grant for federal funding up to \$8 million over two years.

Legislation Affected

None.

For additional information, please call Katrina Hedberg at 971-673-0982.

Sincerely,



Jim Scherzinger
Deputy Director of Finance

CC: John Britton, Legislative Fiscal Office
Sheila Baker, Legislative Fiscal Office
Kelly Freels, Department of Administrative Services
Blake Johnson, Department of Administrative Services