



# 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 – Non-ARRA  
Funded – Healthy Homes Demonstration Program  
(DHS-PH-48)

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

### **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) Public Health Division, Office of Environmental Public Health (OEPH) requests retroactive approval from the Joint Committee on Ways and Means to apply for the Healthy Homes Demonstration Program grant for funds up to \$875,000 over three years beginning February 1, 2010, and ending on January 31, 2013.

The funding is available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The request for applications was received on September 22, 2009, with a due date of November 24, 2009. This grant funding requires no state matching funds or maintenance of effort beyond the grant period.

### **Agency Action**

The purpose of this grant is to develop, demonstrate, and evaluate cost-effective, preventive measures to correct residential safety and environmental health hazards that produce diseases and injuries in

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children and other sensitive subgroups, with a particular focus on low-income households. The goals of the grant are to:

- Mobilize public and private resources to develop cost-effective methods for identifying and controlling key housing-related environmental health and safety hazards,
- Build local capacity to operate sustainable programs that prevent housing related environmental health and safety hazards in low-income residences, and
- Further fair housing and environmental justice.

To accomplish these goals, the PHD Office of Environmental Public Health (OEPH), in partnership with local county health departments, PHD Office of Family Health, PHD Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology, DHS Division of Medical Assistance, and DHS Office of Multicultural Health, intends to build upon the success of an existing program model presently being used in two Oregon counties (Hood River and Deschutes) that incorporates environmental hazard and home safety assessment as part of a visiting home nursing program for pregnant women and expand this model to include, children, under age 4, enrolled in Babies First! and medically fragile children served by the Cocoon program. Each of these programs is administered by visiting home nursing staff in the individual counties. The program will also build healthy homes capacity by providing training for county health departments and other target audiences throughout the state.

Additionally, PHD OEPH will conduct an inventory of existing public and private programs and resources that have a focus on "Healthy Homes" principles or home-health-related issues. The inventory will be used to identify if and where gaps or barriers to service exist. The results of the survey will allow OEPH to focus on developing training and solutions that address the environmental hazard and home safety issues of a specific community.

Lastly, the grant guidance specifies that sixty-five percent of the funds must be spent on direct remediation and related activities including construction services to eliminate residential environmental hazards and safety issues. We are in the process of communicating with

Oregon Housing and Community Services on how best to work with the local Community Action Agencies that provide weatherization and housing rehabilitation services throughout the state. Since most of the clients served by the visiting home nurse programs are Medicaid-eligible, they will also qualify for weatherization and housing rehabilitation assistance.

The funding received from this grant requires no maintenance of effort by the state and there is no expectation that the state will continue to fund these activities at the end of the grant period. No additional positions or FTE are requested.

### **Action Requested**

The Oregon Department of Human Services Public Health Division requests permission to apply for federal funds available through the U.S. Housing and Urban Development for the Healthy Homes Demonstration Program for federal funding up to \$875,000 over three years.

### **Legislation Affected**

None.

For additional information, please call Gail Shibley at 971-673-0403.

Sincerely,



Jim Scherzinger  
Deputy Director of Finance

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