



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of the Director
500 Summer St. NE, E-15
Salem, OR 97301-1097
503-947-5110
Fax: 503-378-2897
TTY: 503-947-5080

August 30, 2010



The Honorable Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
The Honorable Dave Hunt, Co-Chair
State Emergency Board
900 Court St. NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Re: Retroactive Request – Competitive Grant – Non-ARRA Funded
Administration on Aging and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services;
Aging and Disability Resource Center Options Counseling and Assistance
Program; Request to Apply (DHS-SPD-08)

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

This letter serves as a retroactive request that the Department of Human Services (DHS), Seniors and People with Disabilities (SPD), Senior and Disability Services have authority to apply for the Administration on Aging (AoA) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) grant titled Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Options Counseling and Assistance Program.

NATURE OF THE REQUEST

AoA and CMS have provided states support for developing ADRCs, which provide individuals with options counseling and assistance for long term services and supports. Oregon is piloting these organizations in three regions of the state. However, as each state has developed its ADRC program, AoA and CMS find that states have created different standards for options counseling and assistance and that states could improve in the development of their own options counseling and assistance standards. Since options counseling and assistance is a fundamental service offered by ADRCs, AoA and CMS find that many states would benefit by a

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"
An Equal Opportunity Employer



minimum set of national standards and funding to support the formalization, training, and development of tracking procedures for their own options counseling and assistance state standards.

Funding from this grant will be used to support states in assisting AoA and CMS in developing a minimum set of federal standards for options counseling and assistance. Grant funds will also support states in the development of state standards, training, tracking procedures, and core competencies for the delivery of options counseling and assistance. The federal government and states will use the standards that come out of this grant to guide, monitor and improve the delivery of options counseling and assistance in ADRCs.

The department met the qualifications as a State Agency on Aging for the purpose of applying for a portion of these funds. This grant awards \$500,000 over a 24 month period. The grant application was due on July 30, 2010, based on an announcement released on May 31, 2010. The Emergency Board was alerted of the department's intent to apply for the grant on July 20, 2010 and we submitted our application on July 30, 2010.

The expected start date of the grant is September 30, 2010. The grant requires no state matching funds and requires no additional state staff. This grant is not a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

AGENCY ACTION

The department provides person-centered services that focus on independence, dignity, and choice for Oregon's seniors and people with disabilities. This grant advances the department's mission because it supports a program that will assist seniors and people with disabilities in making informed decisions that best meets their needs and their particular circumstances.

The purpose of this grant is to develop and implement national and state-specific standards to guide, monitor, and continually improve the delivery of options counseling and assistance for Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs).

ADRCs are local entities that serve as visible and trusted sources of information and referral for long term care options available in the community. They assist

seniors, individuals with disabilities, and their families and friends with options that relate to their particular needs and circumstances, so that they can make decisions that best meet their needs, either with their own private resources or through one or more public or private programs. Under another grant, Oregon is piloting ADRCs at Northwest Senior and Disabilities Services (NWSDS) and Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG), two local Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). A third AAA, Lane Council on Governments (LCOG), is piloting an ADRC under a separate grant.

Oregon will use this grant to develop and implement a comprehensive set of standards for the ADRC options counseling and assistance function. The standards will specify how options counseling will be delivered, by whom, to whom, under what circumstances, and how it will be tracked and outcomes monitored. Specific activities funded by this grant include:

- Training for new or existing options counselors to meet the new standards;
- Modification of existing information technology for tracking systems;
- Gathering and analyzing service delivery and consumer outcome data;
- Support for the participation of staff and partners in the collaborative process of establishing minimum national standards for options counseling (regular conference calls and two in-person conferences).

The grant funds will be used for contracted services with Portland State University and the ADRCs at three local AAAs.

In the first year of the grant period, grant funds will be used to contract with Portland State University, which will develop these standards and methods for evaluating the effectiveness of the standards.

In the second year of the grant, Portland State will then collaborate with ADRCs at three AAAs, LCOG, NWSDS and OCWCOG, to test how these standards and measures apply to the options counseling and assistance delivered in these ADRCs. These Area Agencies on Aging serve the counties of Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Clatsop and Tillamook counties. Grant funds will be used to support AAA staff who will collaborate with Portland State in assessing the standards. The AAAs will monitor and track delivery of options counseling to evaluate the impact of the new standards in terms of operations (such as

effectiveness of referral protocols) and consumer outcomes (such as satisfaction with service and support choices made).

Additionally, during the second year of the grant period, states will participate in a collaborative process with other states, AoA and CMS staff, and other stakeholders to develop a set of minimum national standards for options counseling and assistance. By the conclusion of the grant period, AoA and CMS will have a comprehensive set of national standards for options counseling and assistance with which to help states guide, monitor, and improve these services provided by their local ADRCs. Additionally, Oregon will have state standards and core competencies to guide the delivery of Options Counseling as funding becomes available and ADRCs are expanded statewide.

As described above, Portland State University's role will be the creation of proposed standards. Portland State will collaborate with local AAA staff to monitor and analyze how these standards deliver these services effectively and how well they result in consumer satisfaction. Regarding staff time, the grant funds will support Portland State University and AAA staff.

The staff at the State Unit on Aging will administer the grant. In the context of two previous grant awards, the staff time associated with this grant will be part of the duties in administering the other two grants related to ADRCs.

The grant does not require any activities after the grant period and the department does not plan to sustain any grant activities at the end of the grant period.

ACTION REQUESTED

The Department of Human Services respectfully requests that the Joint Emergency Board retroactively approve the application submission for this grant. No additional expenditure limitation is requested at this time. If awarded this grant, the department will request additional expenditure limitation in federal funds at a future Emergency Board meeting.

The Honorable Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
The Honorable Dave Hunt, Co-Chair
August 30, 2010
Page 5 of 5

LEGISLATION AFFECTED

None.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jim Scherzinger", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim Scherzinger
Deputy Director of Finance

CC: Sheila Baker, Legislative Fiscal Office
Linda Ames, Legislative Fiscal Office
Blake Johnson, Department of Administrative Services