



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services

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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 Nursing Home Transition and
Diversion Programs (DHS-SPD-11)

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

This letter serves as a retroactive request for the Department of Human Services (DHS), Seniors and People with Disabilities Division (SPD), to apply for the Administration on Aging (AoA) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) grant titled Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Programs.

NATURE OF THE REQUEST

The department provides person-centered services that focus on independence, dignity, and choice for Oregon's seniors and people with disabilities. This grant opportunity advances the department's mission because it supports a program that will assist seniors and people with disabilities who are currently in nursing facilities but who want to live in a home or community based setting.

This grant provides support for states to comply with a CMS mandate to revise the Long-Term Care Minimum Data Set (MDS). The MDS is used to assess residents

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in Medicare and Medicaid-certified nursing homes. Effective October 1, 2010, the MDS must include data in its Section Q indicating a resident's desire to speak with someone regarding community-based options. Nursing homes are required to ask residents if they want to speak to someone about community-based options, and nursing facilities are required to make referrals to local contact agencies if the residents answer yes. ADRCs are one of the local contact agencies.

The On the Move (OTM) program is a Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration grantee; thus the department meets the qualifications for the purpose of applying for a portion of these funds. This grant awards \$400,000 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 on July 20, 2010, of the department's intent to apply for this grant 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

This grant will facilitate and strengthen the roles of ADRCs in coordinating transitions from nursing homes to home and community based settings for older adults and individuals with disabilities. ADRCs are local organizations that provide information, assistance, and options counseling to any individual seeking long term services and support for themselves or a family member. Under two separate federal grants, Oregon is currently developing ADRCs in regions served by three Area Agencies on Aging: Northwest Senior and Disability Services, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments and Lane Council of Governments.

AoA and CMS want to use the grant to promote a strong partnership between state MFP programs and ADRCs. To this end, the grant will provide federal administrative funds to OTM to strengthen ADRC roles in:

- Building ADRC infrastructure and capacity to support transition efforts in the OTM program;

- Promoting partnering activities between the department's OTM program, the ADRCs, and other relevant stakeholders (such as the State and local Ombudsman programs); and,
- Preparing for and continually supporting the implementation of the newly-mandated Long-Term Care Minimum Data Set (MDS), Section Q.

Through contracted services and the development and implementation of computer software systems, the grant will fund the training, infrastructure, and capacity to enable ADRCs to join OTM's current transition efforts, helping individuals who want to leave nursing facilities find appropriate services and supports in community settings. This includes:

- Developing an interface from the ADRC system contact module into the current case management system, Oregon Access, to provide integration between the systems and further support the single point of entry into long-term service and supports for all Oregonians. As a result, On the Move in Oregon and ADRC staff will be aware of an individual's interaction with long-term service and supports from first identification of need.
- Designing, constructing, and implementing an enhancement to the ADRC resource database and the service and support provider web site that will provide real-time provider/resource information on space/bed availability. This information would be available for the general public, as well as for ADRC and OTM staff to assist with placements.

With the advent of the MDS Section Q expansion, the department envisions that the ADRCs, in coordination with OTM, will counsel and transition clients who are already institutional residents.

Although the grant does not require the department to hire staff, we may propose hiring one limited duration staff to assist with the development of the computer systems described above. Otherwise, the department will contract for these systems changes.

Since the grant will fund infrastructure building, the resources, practices, and the capacity for ADRCs to comply with the new MDS Section Q will be in place when the grant ends. There is no expectation of states to expend their own funds to continue grant activities as this infrastructure will already be in place.

ACTION REQUESTED

The department respectfully requests that the State Emergency Board retroactively approve the application 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.

LEGISLATION AFFECTED

None.

Sincerely,



Jim Scherzinger
Deputy Director of Finance

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