



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: Non-ARRA Related (DHS-SPD-10); Administration on Aging and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Grant; Joint DHS/DCBS Request to Apply

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

This letter serves as a retroactive request that the Department of Human Services (DHS), Seniors and People with Disabilities (SPD) Division and the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) program have authority to jointly apply for the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) grant through the Administration on Aging (AoA) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

NATURE OF THE REQUEST

The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act grant will provide funding for targeted, enhanced outreach to low-income Medicare beneficiaries for programs for which they may qualify, including the Low-Income Subsidy and Medicare Savings Programs. The targeted beneficiaries have been insufficiently contacted in previous outreach efforts, and AoA and CMS are using this grant so that local organizations can develop more targeted outreach processes during the grant period.



SPD and SHIBA meet the federal qualifications as a State Agency on Aging and a State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), respectively, for the purpose of applying for a portion of these grant funds. The grant funds are being distributed to states based on a formula, by which Oregon is estimated to receive \$182,448 for SPD and \$212,642 for SHIBA (\$395,090 total funds) over a period of 24 months. This grant is not a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Joint Emergency Board was alerted on July 20, 2010, of DHS's and DCBS's intent to seek approval for the grant entitled above. The grant application was due on July 30, 2010, based on an announcement released on May 31, 2010, and the departments submitted their joint 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.

AGENCY ACTION

The grant will be used to provide outreach to individuals who may be eligible for the Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) and/or the Medicare Savings Program (MSP). The LIS helps individuals with Medicare who have limited income and resources with the costs of their Medicare prescription drug benefits. The MSP helps individuals with Medicare who have limited income and resources with their other Medicare costs, such as Medicare Part B premiums. The grant will also support outreach to individuals with Medicare in rural areas and outreach activities aimed at preventing disease and promoting wellness. Coordinating with DHS, DCBS SHIBA will be the lead agency responsible for administering the grant requirements and reporting.

DHS and DCBS SHIBA propose using their respective grant awards in a collaborative manner to fund targeted outreach activities to reach low-income beneficiaries and encourage their application for LIS and/or MSP. The outreach activities will also inform consumers of new Medicare benefits related to promoting wellness. A closer partnership between the SHIBA and Medicaid service delivery systems will serve consumers in a more effective and streamlined manner. Recipients of the funds will be a subset of current SHIBA sponsors who are local non-profits and Area Agency on Aging organizations. Additionally, funds will be used to develop and deliver training about Medicaid and Medicare to the SHIBA and SPD/AAA networks to facilitate an increased understanding of the public benefit programs.

The grant funds will be spent on contracted services with current SHIBA sponsors (for the targeted outreach and the development of training listed above, and local sponsor staffing for these activities).

If awarded this grant, the success of the project will be measured on meeting specific goals related to the number of completed applications for the LIS and MSP programs from potentially eligible individuals with Medicare.

There is no effect on SPD's or DCBS SHIBA's budgeted services and performance measurements with this grant. This grant will not require any additional FTE.

The grant does not require grant-related activities to continue at the end of the grant period. SPD and DCBS SHIBA do not plan to continue and sustain these activities at the end of the grant period.

BACKGROUND

On July 15, 2008, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) was approved by Congress and became law. It provided funding for beneficiary outreach and included \$30 million for states to provide outreach efforts to older Americans. Oregon received a 24-month grant for \$234,492 (\$125,827 for SPD and \$108,665 for SHIBA).

With the passage of the Affordable Care Act in March 2010, MIPPA was amended to provide additional funding for 2010 through 2012. In addition to expanding outreach to individuals who may qualify for the LIS, the grant will fund outreach to individuals who qualify for MSPs, as well as general Medicare outreach to rural communities and for disease prevention and wellness promotion.

CMS and AoA seek plans from states that will describe how the MIPPA funds will be used to enhance those efforts through statewide and local coalitions focused on intensified outreach activities to help beneficiaries understand and apply for their Medicare benefits. States provide one coordinated state plan in their application that covers the activities supported by the various funding sources available under MIPPA. The outreach efforts listed above may be incorporated in a unified approach, such as outreach to physicians' offices to promote the LIS and MSP

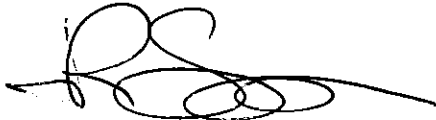
while including additional material on the annual wellness visit and prevention services.

MIPPA presents a new opportunity to build on the successful collaboration between AoA and CMS through the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA). Through a new collaboration, CMS and AoA are jointly administering the MIPPA funding through a single program announcement and a coordinated implementation and monitoring process as a model for similar state and local collaboration for this funding.

ACTION REQUESTED

The Department of Human Services and the Department of Consumer and Business Services respectfully request that the Joint Emergency Board retroactively approve the application of this grant. No additional expenditure limitation is requested.

Sincerely,



Jim Scherzinger
Deputy Director of Finance
Department of Human Services



Cory Streisinger
Director
Department of Business and Consumer
Services