ANALYSIS

Item 17: Department of Human Services
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Analyst: Laurie Byerly

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in the amount of $600,000, to expand employment services to certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants.

Recommendation: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in the amount of $750,308 to expand employment services to certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants.

Analysis: The Department of Human Services (DHS) is asking for retroactive approval to apply for a federal grant to expand Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) employment services. While the grant application is not yet complete – it is due on May 22, 2014 – the agency expects the final grant work plan to tie to the $750,308 amount being recommended; it is a refined number based on the most recent grant budget information. DHS sent a timely letter of intent to apply for a federal grant to the Legislative Fiscal Office on April 21, 2014.

The federal program, which is offering $5 million in federal fiscal year 2014 grants, is seeking proposals focused on improving SNAP office processes and operations or projects that aim to increase the effectiveness of employment and training (E&T) activities. The DHS grant proposal is directed at E&T services, specifically targeted at expanding and tailoring E&T services for veterans, other individuals with former military service, and Native Americans.

With grant funding, which will be directed to organizations with proven skill in serving these populations, the agency expects to serve approximately 1,029 additional SNAP participants over one year. Project partners include St. Vincent de Paul, various Goodwill Industries programs, and the Klamath Tribes (Education and Employment Department). Services, which range from workshops to one-on-one counseling, will be offered in Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, and Lane counties. While the federal grant covers all program costs initially, partner organizations have committed to transitioning services into the SNAP E&T 50/50 program after the grant ends, which is a cost share program where the federal government will reimburse 50 percent of E&T costs.

This competitive grant does not have any match or maintenance of effort requirements. Grant awards are expected to be announced no later than September 30, 2014. Awardees will have a three-year period to expend the grant funds, however, if its application is successful, DHS plans to use the grant in federal fiscal year 2015. The Department does not need any additional staff to administer the grant; if the grant is awarded DHS will make a future request for any needed additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.
Request: Retroactive authorization to apply for a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Process and Technology Improvement Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS).

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Department of Human Services (DHS) is requesting retroactive permission to apply for this grant. The department became aware of the grant on March 24, 2014. The application is due May 22, 2014 (a week prior to the meeting of the Emergency Board). DHS provided the required ten day notice of its intent to apply for the grant to both the Chief Financial Office and Legislative Fiscal Office on April 21, 2014.

DHS currently serves mandatory SNAP participants in the Oregon Food Stamp Training Program (OFSET). This program provides employment and training services to employment ready SNAP recipients for eight weeks in a 12-month period. This grant will allow the expansion of the OFSET program to serve non-mandatory SNAP participants. Examples of these services include work search, on the job training, job retention, job readiness, and resume writing.

With this grant, DHS will focus on expanding OFSET services to veterans, individuals who served in the military, and Native Americans by working with community partner organizations. DHS plans to work with St. Vincent DePaul, Goodwill Industries, Lane County Council of Governments, and the Klamath Tribe to form partnerships. DHS chose these organizations to participate based on their proven ability to successfully provide services to the targeted populations. These organizations will coordinate with the SNAP program to transition these pilot expansions into the 50/50 Employment and Training Program funding stream. For this reason, DHS has required each of the partner organizations to demonstrate their ability to sustain the project with their own funds once the grant funding discontinues. If, however, the organizations are unable to draw the 50 percent federal matching funds with their own funding, the Employment and Training components belonging to those organizations would end and no General Fund would be requested to sustain the programs. In this case, full federal funding for the population of mandatory OFSET SNAP participants would continue. The following provides information regarding the projected number of individuals to be served and the budgets of the participating organizations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Target Population</th>
<th>Projected number of SNAP participants to serve in a year</th>
<th>Anticipated Budget for the first year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul, Employment Solutions</td>
<td>Lane</td>
<td>Veterans &amp; Others who served in the military</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>$115,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lane and South Coast Counties Goodwill Industries</td>
<td>Lane</td>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>$174,968</td>
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<tr>
<td>Job Connections Program</td>
<td>Jackson &amp; Josephine</td>
<td>Veterans &amp; Others who served in the military</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>$141,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Oregon Goodwill Industries</td>
<td>Klamath and Lake</td>
<td>Veterans &amp; Others who served in the military</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>$62,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klamath Tribes, Education and Employment Department</td>
<td>Klamath</td>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>$255,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1029</td>
<td>$750,308</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
April 28, 2014

The Honorable Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Tina Kotek, Co-Chair
State Emergency Board
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

RE: Retroactive request to Apply for: Fiscal Year 2014 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Process and Technology Improvement Grant, (USDA-FNS-FY2014-SNAP-PTI-GRANTS)

Dear Co-Chairs:

Nature of the Request

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Self Sufficiency Programs requests retroactive permission to apply for the Fiscal Year 2014 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)) Process and Technology Improvement Grant for federal funds up to $600,000 for up to two years.

The funding is available through United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Services (FNS). The request for applications was received March 24, 2014 and the application is due on May 22, 2014. The grant requires no matching funds.

Oregon currently serves mandatory SNAP participants in what is called the Oregon Food Stamp Training Program (OFSET). This program provides minimal services to employment ready SNAP mandatory people for eight weeks.

Many SNAP participants who are not mandatory to participate in work requirements would like to choose to participate with Employment and Training Services.
Currently, Oregon is not able to allow those participants to participate in the OFSET Program due to the limited amount of funding.

Agency Action

The purpose of this funding would be to increase employment by expanding current services for certain SNAP populations with the SNAP Employment and Training Program. Target populations being considered are people who have served in the military, Veterans and the Native American population. This grant funding would be utilized by working with three to four partner agencies in different areas of the state to help them to expand their employment services. In future years the agencies participating with this grant would be expected to work with the SNAP program to move these pilot expansions into the 50/50 Employment and Training Program funding stream. These organizations would need to utilize their own non-federal funding to pull down federal match.

The agency submitted a 10-day letter on April 21, 2014 as the application is due on May 22nd before the Emergency Board meeting. Because this grant involves external partners and due to timing of retroactive request requirement not much more information was available between letters. DHS will be able to provide further detail regarding anticipated number served etc. after the required submission date of this letter and prior to the Emergency Board meeting.

Action Requested

Retroactive request to Apply for: Fiscal Year 2014 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Process and Technology Improvement Grant, (USDA-FNS- FY2014-SNAP-PTI-GRANTS)

Legislation Impacted

None

If you have questions, please contact Belit Burke, 503-947-5389.
Sincerely,

Eric Luther Moore
DHS Chief Financial Officer

cc: Ken Rocco
    George Naughton
    Laurie Byerly
    Tamara Brickman
    Jim Carbone