

Analysis

Item 10: Department of Human Services

Aging and Disability Resource Connection

Analyst: Laurie Byerly

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of up to \$400,000 to enhance the state's system for providing information on and access to long term services and supports.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Analysis: The Department of Human Services (DHS) is asking for approval to apply for a federal grant to help enhance the state's No Wrong Door (NWD) system, which is another term for services provided by the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC). Oregon's nine ADRCs primarily serve seniors and people with disabilities and are local resources designed to be a single point of assistance or entry. The goal is to provide a coordinated system responsive to any individual seeking information on long term services and supports, toward helping minimize confusion, enhance individual choice, and support informed decision-making.

Over the last three federal fiscal years DHS received \$2.3 million in federal resources to further develop its ADRC program, with an emphasis on options counseling. Among other components, that funding allowed DHS to expand ADRC capacity statewide, refine services, and develop program evaluation tools. Federal grant funding also helped initiate the first ADRC pilot project in 2008.

Eligibility for the current funding opportunity is limited to the eight states receiving 2012 grants, which includes Oregon. Applicants must identify a specific function of its system that would be enhanced by the grant. Primary NWD functions include state governance and administration; public outreach and coordination; person centered counseling; and streamlined eligibility for public programs. While the grant application is not yet complete – it is due on June 6, 2016 – the agency anticipates its final work plan to focus on assistive technology utilization, system management tools, and options counseling training improvements. If successful, funding will be used by existing ADRC or state staff; no additional positions are expected to be needed to carry out the grant.

DHS plans to request the full amount of \$200,000 per year, for 2 years, as capped under the federal grant announcement. There are no matching funds or maintenance of effort requirements. Second year funding is contingent on federal budget approval; due to this uncertainty the agency has selected grant activities that are scalable and/or one-time in nature. Grant award decisions are targeted for August 15, 2016, so DHS should be able to provide an update on the award results as part of its next rebalance report, along with requesting any needed expenditure limitation.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.

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Oregon Department of Human Services
Brickman

Request: Authorization to apply for the “No Wrong Door – Aging and Disability Resource connection” grant in the amount of \$400,000 (to be used over two years) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: This grant is available through the Administration for Community Living (ACL). The funding opportunity was published on April 8, 2016, with the application due June 6, 2016. This grant requires no state matching funds and there is no federal maintenance of effort requirement.

The U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) developed this funding opportunity announcement to assist states in transforming their existing long-term services and support access programs and functions into a single statewide No Wrong Door (NWD) System of access for all persons regardless of age, income or disability. The current long-term services system involves numerous funding streams administered by multiple federal, state and local agencies. Individuals trying to access these services frequently find themselves overwhelmed by the process and confused with respect to what services and/or supports are available and which agency is responsible for those programs. In 2003, the Administration on Aging, now part of ACL, and CMS came together to create a joint funding opportunity to support state efforts to create “one-stop-shop” access programs for people seeking LTSS. The initiative, known as the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Program, was designed to provide consumers sources of information, one-on-one counseling, and streamlined access to long-term support services.

In 2012, Oregon was among eight states that received a grant to develop a No Wrong Door System for all populations and all payers and to work with the federal partners on the development of national standards and tools. In 2014, DHS applied for and received another grant from the ACL, CMS, and VHA to increase the knowledge and skills of ADRCs in identifying and meeting the needs of individuals with dementia and their families. In total, DHS has received \$2.3 million from these grant resources to develop its ADRC program. Oregon currently has nine ADRCs across the state that serve as local resources and as a single point of assistance or entry. These ADRCs mostly serve seniors and people with disabilities seeking long-term support services.

This grant will fund specific aspects of the NWD System to better support the existing elements of the system. Those elements include (1) public outreach and coordination with key referral resources; (2) person-centered options counseling; (3) streamlined eligibility for public programs; and (4) information and referral/assistance. In particular, this grant will allow DHS to begin identifying and developing strategies for relationships across the NWD System with the State’s Assistive Technology Act programs in order to improve the use of assistive technology for individuals with disabilities across the individual’s lifespan. DHS will also continue to work with ACL and other federal partners to pilot the NWD System Management Tool, which will help states assess the current operational capacity of NWD systems. Finally the grant will allow DHS to continue to provide input regarding the training program for the NWD System Person Centered Options Counseling Program.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

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April 25, 2016

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: Competitive Grant – No Wrong Door System Key Elements:
Transforming State LTSS Access Functions into a No Wrong Door System
for All Populations and All Payers

Funding Opportunity Number: HHS-2016-ACL-CIP-NWPG-0163

Dear Co-Chairs:

Nature of the Request

The Department of Human Services (DHS), seeks permission to apply for federal funds for the No Wrong Door (NWD) - Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) grant. The grant will provide federal funds up to \$200,000 a year for 2 years, beginning September 30, 2016 and ending September 29, 2018, for a total of up to \$400,000.

The intent of the grant is to build upon the work of Oregon's ADRC by:

- Enhancing the existing NWD System, consistent with its key elements.
- Continuing to receive technical assistance through the Oregon Assistive Technology State Plan, collaborating with Oregon's lead agency to transform access functions into a single NWD System.

The funding is available through the Administration for Community Living (ACL). The funding opportunity was published on April 8, 2016, with the application due June 6, 2016. This grant funding requires no State matching funds. There is no federal maintenance of effort requirement.

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"

Agency Action

In Oregon, the No Wrong Door (NWD) effort is called the Aging & Disability Resource Connection of Oregon (ADRC). Currently, ADRC serves primarily seniors and people with disabilities. There are nine ADRC lead agencies throughout the State, who work with partners to serve the entire State of Oregon. These partners include but may not be limited to: Centers for Independent Living (CIL), Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) Medicaid offices, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), and our State assistive technology partner, Access Technologies, Inc.

ADRC practices No Wrong Door's key elements by offering:

- Public Outreach and Coordination with key referral resources
- Person-Centered Options Counseling
- Streamlined Eligibility for public programs
- Information and Referral/Assistance

Without the ADRC, individuals seeking resources and options for long term services and supports (LTSS) often find a maze of organizations and bureaucratic requirements at a time when they are vulnerable and/or in crisis. This often results in people making decisions based on incomplete, and sometimes inaccurate, information about their options. LTSS options that are less than optimal, including decisions to use expensive options such as nursing facility care that can quickly exhaust an individual's personal resources, and result in their spending down to Medicaid.

This grant funding will support specific aspects of the existing NWD System to better align with the NWD System Key Elements (listed above). This grant requires ADRC to work with the ACL, CMS and the VHA on all aspects of their grant activities and on various technical assistance activities, including:

- Begin to identify and develop strategies for collaboration across the NWD System with the State's Assistive Technology Act programs to improve the provision and utilization of assistive technology for individuals with disabilities across the lifespan and their families.
- Continue to work with ACL and federal partners to pilot test the NWD System Management Tool to help states assess the current operational capacity of the NWD systems.

- Continue to provide feedback into the national NWD System Person Centered Options Counseling Training program.

No positions will be requested for this grant.

The DHS mission is to help Oregonians in their own communities achieve wellbeing and independence through opportunities that protect, empower, respect choice and preserve dignity. This grant supports this mission by improving lifelong health of Oregonians through information and assistance and the person-centered options counseling throughout the State of Oregon. Lastly, by offering information and assistance that includes an array of what Oregon has to offer, the No Wrong Door service promotes lower cost options of care affordable to everyone.

Action Requested

The Department of Human Services (DHS), requests authority to apply for the No Wrong Door Transforming State LTSS Access Functions into a No Wrong Door System for All Populations and All Payers grant from ACL. If the state's application is successful we will return at a later rebalance for any necessary limitation.

Legislation Affected

None.

For questions or additional information, please call Ashley Carson Cottingham at (503) 947-1100 or email: ashley.b.carson-cottingham@dhsosha.state.or.us.

Sincerely,



Eric Luther Moore
DHS Chief Financial Officer

cc: Laurie Byerly, Legislative Fiscal Office
Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Office
George Naughton, Department of Administrative Services
Tamara Brickman, Department of Administrative Services