



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services

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September 18, 2008

The Honorable Peter Courtney, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Jeff Merkley, Co-Chair  
State Emergency Board  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048



Re: Retroactive Request – Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance  
Network Cooperative Agreement

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

## NATURE OF THE REQUEST

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) Public Health Division is requesting retroactive approval to apply for the Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Surveillance Network (SSuN) Cooperative Agreement for federal funds of up to \$750,000 (for Part A) over five years and potentially \$500,000 (for Part B) in future years. The Emergency Board was alerted on June 27, 2008, of the department's intent to seek approval for this cooperative agreement.

The funding is available through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The request for application was received June 1, 2008, with a due date of July 14, 2008. In September, the CDC will announce grant awards to 12 U.S. state health departments. The grant period is September 30, 2008, through September 29, 2013, and requires no state matching funds.

## AGENCY ACTION

The SSuN Project is intended to improve the capacity of national, state and local STD programs to detect, monitor and respond rapidly, with flexibility,

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and with greater effectiveness to established and emerging trends in STDs and related risk behaviors, and evaluate the effectiveness of public health interventions to reduce STD morbidity.

The SSuN Project differs from other current STD funding in the Public Health Division in that, in addition to standard surveillance and data collection activities, this agreement would provide funds to integrate a set of existing data systems to enhance information that can be queried by CDC and collaborating sites to perform a wide variety of analyses to respond to STD trends and public health priorities.

The SSuN Cooperative Agreement will be awarded in two distinct parts: Part A, a clinical component; and Part B, a laboratory component. The DHS Public Health Division applied for Part A only. Part A requires the participation of a categorical STD clinic that treats over 400 patients per year for gonorrhea. The Multnomah County Health Department STD Clinic meets this criterion.

If funded, the Public Health Division HIV/STD/TB Program, as the eligible applicant, will partner with the Multnomah County STD Clinic to achieve the grant objectives. The majority of the funds will be allocated via contract to Multnomah County for data system integration, and to provide grant-specific clinical services and research activities. A small amount of funds will remain at the state level to provide for grant oversight, research coordination and administrative overhead. No additional DHS staff will be required.

If a successful SSuN Part A awardee, DHS could be eligible to seek permission to apply for the Part B, laboratory collection and processing component, in future years. The SSuN project does not create a state financial obligation at the end of the award period.

The expected outcome from this grant is to strengthen local capacity to organize and compile public health data for timely investigation of emerging trends in STD, particularly in Multnomah County, site of the highest statewide STD morbidity. This outcome directly supports the DHS mission to assist Oregonians to become healthy, independent and safe.

## **ACTION REQUESTED**

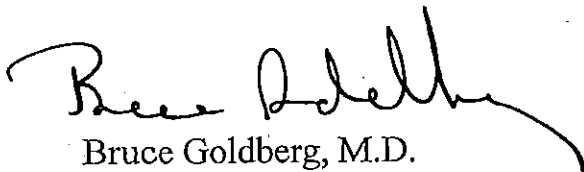
The DHS Public Health Division requests retroactive approval to apply for the cooperative agreement, Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Surveillance Network, offered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control. If funds are awarded, DHS will return to a future Emergency Board for any necessary expenditure limitation adjustment.

## **LEGISLATION AFFECTED**

None.

If you have any questions, please call Mike Skeels at 973-673-1222.

Sincerely,



Bruce Goldberg, M.D.  
Director

CC: John Britton, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Sheila Baker, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Blake Johnson, Department of Administrative Services  
Michael Skeels, Department of Human Services