



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of the Director

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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 to apply for Administration for Children and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) Support Systems for Rural Homeless Youth (a Federal Agency): A Collaborative State and Local Demonstration CFDA # 93.550

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

## **NATURE OF THE REQUEST**

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) and the State Commission on Children and Families (OCCF) request retroactive permission to apply for the Support Systems for Rural Homeless Youth: A Collaborative State and Local Demonstration Project.

The Emergency Board was alerted on August 7, 2008 of the DHS and the OCCF intent to seek approval for the grant entitled above. The grant application was due August 25, 2008 and was submitted and received on August 25, 2008. DHS became aware of the grant on July 16, 2008 and submitted a 10-day letter of notice on August 7, 2008. The expected start date of the grant is October 1, 2008.

DHS and OCCF are partnering to make a joint application for this opportunity. This Demonstration Project is designed for homeless and runaway youth in the Transitional Living Programs (TLP) and Independent Living Programs (ILP) administered by Children, Adults and Families

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Division. It fits well with OCCF's current Homeless and Runaway Youth Initiative funded in the 2007-09 budget and is in alignment with the work over the past 10 years with the Family Service Youth Bureau's funded state and local Positive Youth Development Demonstration Project in Oregon. The partnership and existing efforts between DHS and OCCF will strengthen Oregon's application.

If approved, this grant will allow for federal funds up to \$1 million over a five-year period with annual increments of \$200,000. The initial planning grant restrictions cannot exceed \$200,000. An initial grant will be awarded for a 12-month budget period, beginning Sept. 30, 2008. The award of continuation grants beyond the initial 2-month period will be subject to the availability of funds and satisfactory progress of the grantee.

Entities eligible to apply for the Demonstration are those state agencies that administer the Independent Living Program (ILP) for youth aging out of foster care. This requirement makes DHS Children Adults and Families (CAF) the only entity in Oregon eligible to apply. DHS and OCCF agree that DHS will make the application for the grant, accept the funds then pass through the grant funds to OCCF through interagency agreement, in partnership with DHS/CAF, to implement the grant objectives and ensure goals and outcomes are met, including the oversight and support of the Local Collaborating Partner.

## AGENCY ACTION

In 2005, the Oregon Homeless and Runaway Work Group estimated that 24,000 youth ages 11 to 21 were homeless in Oregon during FY 2002-03<sup>1</sup>. In 2002, the Oregon Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS) logged 10,499 reports of runaways picked up at the request of parents or guardians. In 2003, the Oregon Youth Authority reported that 2,359 runaway youth were processed by the juvenile justice system, and 6,817 referrals of runaways were received by county juvenile departments statewide.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Calculated by factoring the 1,992 unaccompanied homeless youth served in Oregon's shelter system over the course of one year by 12 Researchers in the U.S. Health and Human Services Inspector General's Office indicate only 1 in 12 homeless youth are actually served in shelters

<sup>2</sup> Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association, Oregon Youth Authority (2003) Juvenile Justice Information System Data & Evaluation Reports, Youth & Referrals

The challenge in serving this population of vulnerable older children and young people is that their needs for service and support exist between systems of care. They have often dropped out of high school, are forced to live outside of their families and are disconnected from more mainstream community and agency resources

The grant complements existing efforts underway in Oregon. Legislation enacted during the last legislative session has resulted in the release of \$1 million through the Oregon Commission on Children and Families for the 2007-09 biennium to eight counties around Oregon for the development of local critical supports and services. In 2006, a federal grant was acquired through the Compassion Capital Fund, Administration of Children and Families, to underscore the work of the local commissions, strengthen practices and results, empower youth and engage communities in sustaining the newly developed projects as well as existing service continuums.

#### **ACTION REQUESTED**

DHS and OCCF request that the Emergency Board approve retroactive approval of application of this grant.

Once the grant is approved, DHS and OCCF will come back to the Emergency Board to seek a 1.0 FTE limited duration position for a Project Director who will have oversight responsibility of the Demonstration and will seek a .5 FTE Local Coordinator to facilitate the local planning process, selection of the Local Collaborating Partner, and the development of the strategic plan and outcomes. The limited duration positions will be assigned to OCCF.

There is a 10% non-federal match requirement for this grant. The Local Collaborating Partner will be required to provide local match as part of the Demonstration. OCCF will utilize current general fund dollars if necessary to meet the matching funds. No additional general funds are requested for this project.

This Demonstration Project provides funds for the state to work with a local, community-based organization to improve the design and delivery of services to runaway and homeless youth in federally-funded Transitional

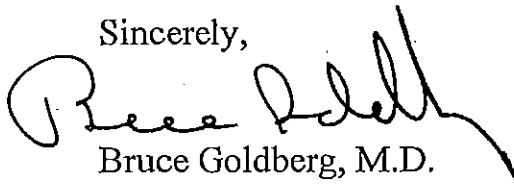
Living Programs (TLP) as well as to homeless youth aging out of the state child welfare system and into Independent Living Programs (ILP). The intent of the Demonstration Project is to influence policies, programs and practices at the local, state and national levels.


Funds from this Demonstration Project will be focused on improving coordination of runaway and homeless youth services and on the creation of additional supports for rural youth, especially regarding survival support services, community services, and education and employment services. In the first year of the Demonstration Project, grants will be awarded to support a one-year planning effort. During that planning year, DHS and OCCF will work with the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) funded Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) providers in rural areas of less than 20,000 in population that are interested in becoming the Local Collaborating Partner for the Demonstration Project. Together, DHS and OCCF will design an approach to the Project that will be implemented over the remaining four years of the Demonstration Project. DHS and OCCF will select its Local Collaborating Partner by the end of the planning period.

#### LEGISLATION AFFECTED

None.

Sincerely,

  
Bruce Goldberg, M.D.  
Director  
Department of Human Services

  
Mickey Lansing  
Executive Director  
Oregon Commission on Children and  
Families

CC: Sheila Baker, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Jim Carbone, Department of Administrative Services  
Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Officer  
George Naughton, Administrator, Budget and Management