



## HEALTH SYSTEMS DIVISION

Kate Brown, Governor



April 29, 2022

500 Summer Street NE, E-86

Salem, OR 97301-1118

Voice: 503-945-5763

Fax: 503-378-8467

TTY: 800-375-2863

[www.oregon.gov/OHA/hsd/amh](http://www.oregon.gov/OHA/hsd/amh)

To: All Behavioral Health Providers

From: Steve Allen, Behavioral Health Director

Dear Providers,

My letter to you dated Friday, April 15, about a new grant program aimed at bolstering the Behavioral Health Treatment provider workforce included some language that caused confusion. The Behavioral Health Provider Relief Program requires OHA to distribute grants to providers for staff compensation and workforce retention and recruitment, to resolve workforce shortages resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To clarify: Applications will be accepted from the following providers:

- Mental health or substance use disorder crisis line providers; or
- Urban Indian Health Programs in Oregon; or
- Tribal Behavioral Health Program grant recipients in Oregon; or
- Behavioral health care providers (services and supports for individuals with mental health or substance use disorders) that meet the following criteria:
  - Serve adults or youth, at least 50% of whom are uninsured, enrolled in the state medical assistance program (Medicaid), or enrolled in Medicare
  - Are not hospitals; and
  - Qualify as one or more of the following:
    - Certified by Oregon Health Authority to provide behavioral health care
    - Provides behavioral health care through program contracting with or administered by the Oregon Youth Authority
    - Provides behavioral health rehabilitation services through a program contracting with or administered by the Department of Human Services
    - Licensed opioid treatment program
    - Provides withdrawal management services; or
    - Is a sobering center.

You can review the Request for Application [here](#).

Providers must use at least 75 percent of the grant funding for wages, benefits, bonuses and incentives to hire new staff, or retain existing staff. The remainder may be spent on programs or other non-compensatory means to increase workforce retention or recruitment.

Successful applicants will be required to spend the grant funds by no later than December 1, 2022, not 2023 as was indicated in last Friday's letter. We apologize for any confusion this created.

OHA will host online webinars Thursday, April 21, and April 28, from noon to 1 p.m., to answer your questions. Details about how to access these webinars, along with more information about the grant program, can be found [here](#).

Providers must [apply](#) for these grants by no later than 5 p.m. May 4.

Thank you for your interest in this exciting new partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Allen  
Behavioral Health Director  
Health Systems Division  
Oregon Health Authority  
503-449-7643