



ORCATECH – The Oregon Center for Aging and Technology

Federal Dollars Requested for FY 2009: \$800,000

Federal Bill & Account: Department of Health and Human Services: Administration on Aging

Previous Federal Dollars: None

Total Federal Dollars Requested for the Project: \$800,000

Total Amount of Project: \$800,000

ORCATECH is a public-private, OHSU-based collaboration composed of academic, industry, health provider and lay organizations dedicated to creating a new way of ensuring independent, cost-effective healthy living for our aging population.

If this proposal is funded, it would help purchase equipment to transition ORCATECH's unique evolving home-based model – called the “Living Lab” – into a statewide network dedicated to establishing the evidence that technology can be used in novel ways to sustain independent living. The network would consist of five clusters of technology-enabled homes sites chosen to represent diverse populations (rural, urban, ethnic minorities, socioeconomic levels) throughout the state.

The Living Lab currently consists of over 240 homes in the Portland metropolitan area and conducts research to assess seniors in their own homes for loss of cognitive or motor function – the primary factors that threaten their independence. The assessment is done through unobtrusive motion-activity sensors, medication-taking sensors (“the electronic pill box”) and personal computers that seniors are taught to operate. This approach creates a new model of 24/7 health assessment which can significantly reduce costs through prevention and disease management.

Locally, ORCATECH has significant potential as a generator of new businesses. Industry is interested in using this network of *in situ* homes for rapidly prototyping new products, such as software or informational call-centers for home-health management.

Nationally, this research is critical to meeting the growing health care challenges of providing quality care, including long term care, for the rapidly aging American population while saving substantial dollars for the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

ORCATECH is a broad-based coalition that includes Oregon's major institutions of higher learning (OHSU, Oregon State, the University of Oregon, Portland State, Oregon Institute of Technology), large companies (Intel), small companies (Spry Learning, Elite Care Technologies), senior housing providers (Pacific Retirement Services, Willamette View), non-profit research organizations (Merle West Center for Medical Research, Eugene Research Institute), and lay and senior advocacy organizations (AARP, Alzheimer's Association, Oregon Alliance of Senior and Health Services).

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