

OODH receives funding for another five years!

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OODH Projects & Activities	3	The grant competition was tough: Thirty-four states applied for this grant and only 16 states were funded. Applicants

could apply for a ‘core’ grant and up to six different ‘modular grants.’ Modular grants were only awarded to those states if they first received funding for their core grant. OODH applied for the maximum – the core grant and all six modular grants. This strategy paid off as Oregon was the only state to receive funding for the core grant and all six modular grants!!

OODH has been funded since 1994 and with the new award we will now be able to continue to promote the health and wellness of Oregonians with disabilities through at least March 2012! Although we’re still waiting for formal award notification, we wanted to share with you some of our plans for the future. Read on to find out more about the core and modular activities of OODH during the next five years.



The “Core” of OODH: Maintaining the foundation for OODH activities

The “core” grant that was awarded to OODH is just that – the core of OODH activities. States awarded a core grant are tasked with developing their infrastructure to better serve their residents with disabilities. This is done through a partnership between a State Office or Department and another institution, usually a university. The Oregon Office on Disability and Health (OODH) is, and has been, a partnership between Oregon Health & Science University and the Oregon Department of Human Services, Public Health Division.

Core activities of the OODH grant include the development or maintenance of an Advisory Council to help inform statewide health promotion efforts and influence state policy; establishing key collaborations with community, local, and state partners; and analysis of Oregon data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), which is a phone survey on health conditions and risk behaviors. The core grant also requires states to develop appropriate evaluation plans for all activities and a State Strategic Plan that incorporates the health and wellness needs of people with disabilities.

Modular grants: Expanding the reach of health programs within the state

While the core grant is infrastructure-building, the modular grants are geared towards program implementation and capacity building within the state. Efforts are concentrated on expanding the scope of the disability and health program within the state and to increase the reach of state health programs.

OODH will work on projects and activities in the following six areas:

1. Implementing an evidence-based intervention to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities.

OODH will continue to hold Healthy Lifestyles workshops throughout the state of Oregon, including at least one Spanish Healthy Lifestyles workshop for Latinos each year. Healthy Lifestyles workshops are part of OODH's ongoing efforts to provide people with disabilities with the skills and resources to live a healthy life.

2. Improving access, health promotion, and health marketing and communication around a breast cancer screening and awareness campaign for women with disabilities.

The "Right to Know Campaign" is a health communication program that was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to increase awareness of and promote breast cancer screening for women with physical disabilities 40 years and older. This program will be strategically implemented by OODH in several Oregon communities over the course of the next five years.

3. Addressing disability issues with state or local disaster preparedness and emergency response programs.

OODH will work to ensure that emergency preparedness planning and training efforts include topics relevant to the health and safety of people with disabilities in Oregon. OODH will participate in state emergency preparedness efforts and provide training and education to first responders on the needs of people with disabilities in emergency situations.

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4. Engaging in activities in support of livable communities, to include improving access to homes, schools, healthcare facilities, and/or workplaces.

Community Engagement activities will continue as a part of ongoing efforts to improve the physical and social accessibility of community environments, resulting in improved quality of life for people with disabilities.

5. Training of professionals and para-professionals.

Professionals and para-professionals will be trained on the care and health promotion of people with disabilities. OODH will continue to offer the graduate level course on “Disability and Public Health” for the Oregon Masters of Public Health Program, as well as offer a new graduate course on “Disability and Epidemiology.” OODH staff will also provide lectures in an interdisciplinary teaching forum at OHSU and implement an intensive training institute for healthcare professionals.

6. Analyzing supplemental surveillance data.

Although the core grant requires OODH to analyze state BRFSS data, this modular grant allows for more in-depth analysis of the BRFSS data to help inform the development and evaluation of ongoing OODH program activities. Additionally, OODH will also analyze data on Oregon teens with disabilities to help inform the development of sound programs and policies related to their health and well-being.

As is evident from all of the aforementioned activities, OODH will be quite busy for the next five years. We're excited about the potential that the next five years hold for all Oregonians with disabilities and will keep you posted on our progress!!

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