



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST NOTICE OF INTENT

(Revised: 5/24/13)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 7/18/13
Agenda Item #: R.2
Est. Start Time: 10:00 am
Date Submitted: 7/3/13

Agenda Title: NOTICE OF INTENT to Submit an application for up to \$150,000 to the Robert Wood Johnson Public Health Law Research funding opportunity

Note: This APR is for NOI's only. APRs are available for other types of submittals. Title should not be more than 2 lines but be sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested Meeting Date: July 18, 2013 **Amount of Time:** 5 minutes
Department: Health **Division:** Office of Policy and Planning – Program Design and Evaluation Services
Contact(s): Julie Maher; Marc Harris
Phone: 971-673-0603; **Ext.** 29778 **I/O Address:** 160/9
Presenter Name(s) & Title(s): Marc Harris, Health Services Development Administrator

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Authorization for the Director of the Health Department to submit an application for up to \$150,000 to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Making the Case for Laws that Improve Health funding opportunity.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

Public health law research is the scientific study of the relation of law and legal practices to population health. Laws have improved the public's health by influencing individual behavior (e.g., mandating seatbelt use and immunizations) and the physical and social environment (e.g., regulating exposure to lead, cigarette smoke, and other hazardous products). Laws not designed as health measures (e.g., transportation and land use policies) also influence public health for better or worse. Rigorous, credible research can inform and guide the crafting and implementation of laws that promote public health. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Making the Case for Laws that Improve

Health funding opportunity has the goal to build the evidence for and increase the use of effective regulatory, legal and policy solutions to protect and improve population health and the public health system. The Health Department's Program Design and Evaluation Services (PDES) is applying for funding to assess the impact of the implementation of Washington's new laws legalizing marijuana sale and consumption on public health. Washington and Colorado are the first states to legalize marijuana (by voter initiatives passed in Fall 2012), and the public health impact of this change in law has not been studied. Other states – including Oregon – are considering legalization. In fact, two initiative petitions (one to amend the state constitution to legalize marijuana, and one to set up a system for marijuana regulation) were filed with the Oregon Secretary of State's office in June 2013. This study provides an opportunity to learn more about the impact that legalization will have on marijuana distribution and consumption, and in turn, public health, by comparing changes in Washington to Oregon, which is the "comparison group" state.

In a current study funded by the RWJF, PDES is already studying the impact that deregulation of the alcohol distribution system in Washington is having on alcohol sales and consumption, public health consequences, and economic costs. Evaluating the public health impact of marijuana legalization will build on the capacity created for the alcohol law study, and use a similar theoretical model to describe how the change in law is associated with: (1) changes in marijuana consumption patterns among youth and adults, (2) changes in predictors of marijuana consumption (perceptions and attitudes), (3) changes in availability of marijuana across the state, (4) marijuana-related public health effects, and (5) economic costs of public health effects. Because of data systems that are already used by public health and partners in Washington and Oregon, Oregon is an excellent comparison site. Quantitative data will come from established statewide self report surveys of youth and adults; social indicator data from existing administrative sources (for instance, car crash and hospitalization data); and sales tax revenue.

As a result of the lack of evidence on how legalization affects marijuana consumption and associated health and social consequences, marketing for passage of Voter Initiative 502 in Washington State was able to ignore potential public health consequences and costs, and marijuana legalization was promoted as a way of reducing the burden on law enforcement and the justice system. The findings of the proposed study will allow policy makers to better understand how deregulation impacts public health, and can be used by other states, such as Oregon, as they consider legalization.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

If funded, the grant will provide the Health Department's Program Design and Evaluation Services unit with approximately \$150,000 over an 18 month period. This will support FTE for research staff.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

The study will examine Washington's new laws governing distribution and sale of marijuana and analyze their impact, in part, by utilizing Oregon as a comparison. The findings of the study can be used by law and policy makers to discuss the public health impact of the legalization of marijuana.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

The project will partner with the State of Oregon Public Health Division, the State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services, and the Washington State Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking/Cannabis Use. Through the project, these partners will work with government agencies in Washington such as Office of the Attorney General, Liquor (and Cannabis) Control Board, Department of Social and Health Services, Department of Commerce, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Department of Health, Department of Transportation and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. We will also work actively

to share findings with Oregon leaders in public health and substance abuse prevention fields.

Grant Application/Notice of Intent

If the request is a Grant Application or Notice of Intent, please answer all of the following in detail:

- **Who is the granting agency?**

The granting agency is the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

- **Specify grant (matching, reporting and other) requirements and goals.**

The goal of this program is to build the evidence for and increase the use of effective regulatory, legal and policy solutions to protect and improve population health and the public health system. Grantees are expected to meet RWJF requirements for the submission of narrative and financial reports, as well as periodic information needed for overall project performance monitoring and management. Grantees may be asked to participate in periodic meetings and give progress reports on their grants. At the close of each grant, the grantee is expected to provide a written report on the project and its findings, suitable for wide dissemination. No cost matching is required.

- **Explain grant funding detail – is this a one time only or long term commitment?**

The RWJF funding opportunity is a one-time only grant for an 18 month project period.

- **What are the estimated filing timelines?**

The application is due on July 24, 2013.

- **If a grant, what period does the grant cover?**

The grant covers the 18 month period December 1, 2013-May 31, 2015.

- **When the grant expires, what are funding plans?**

When the grant expires, the research project will be completed. Dissemination of project results may continue after the project period.

- **Is 100% of the central and departmental indirect recovered? If not, please explain why.**

Yes, 100% of indirect costs will be covered by grant funds.

Required Signatures

**Elected Official
or Department/
Agency Director:
Name/Title:**

**KaRin Johnson for
Lillian Shirley/s/
Deputy Director for Department Director**

**07-02-13
Date:**

**Budget Analyst:
Name/Title:**

Althea Gregory /s/

Date: 7-3-13

Note: Please submit electronically. We are no longer using actual signatures. Insert names of your approvers followed by /s/. Please insert date approved