
Request for Proposals Better Nursing Home Care Fund

Due Date for Applications: February 7 annually

(If February 7 falls on a weekend, applications are due at OCF the previous Friday)

Purpose

Grants are available from the Better Nursing Home Care Fund to ensure better care for nursing home residents in Oregon. The Better Nursing Home Care Fund is a permanent fund of The Oregon Community Foundation, created by the U.S. District Court as partial restitution in a court case involving fraudulent operation of nursing homes. It is one of the first funds of this kind ever created.

The fund's earnings are distributed annually in the form of grants to eligible organizations. An advisory committee reviews grant applications and makes funding recommendations to the foundation's board of directors. Approximately \$25,000 is available via one or more grants each year. Applicants are notified by May 31 of funding decisions.

Scope of Proposals Sought

The Oregon Community Foundation gives preference to proposals for innovative projects to improve the quality of life, health and overall wellbeing of nursing home residents.

Organizations that have never requested funds are especially encouraged to submit a grant application and may contact OCF staff for help (503.227.6846).

Projects with **potential for replication** are preferred as are projects with plans to share or disseminate results. One or more of the following priorities should be addressed:

- Implementing culture change among nursing home staff to create or strengthen resident-directed care models. Examples of resident-directed models can be found through Pioneer Network (www.pioneernetwork.net).
- Adapting and implementing training, therapy, recreation, or other practices, or integrating new technology, tested as an effective way to improve nursing home care.
- Establishing collaborative relationships among nursing homes, resident organizations, community organizations, advocacy groups, family support groups, and academic institutions to improve nursing home residents' quality of life.
- Implementing innovative methods for attracting and retaining qualified staff, particularly Certified Nursing Assistants. This may involve improved interdisciplinary relationships on staff or promotion of professional development and continuing education opportunities (a career "ladder") for direct care staff.
- Adopting evidence-based best practices, especially in the care of older adults with dementia.
- Implementing changes in food service to provide greater choice, selection and quality food that are consistent with the personal and cultural preferences of residents.

Outcomes Sought

Following are some examples of the types of outcomes being sought in connection with nursing home residents, many the result of a shift to resident-directed care:

Care of Residents

- Increase resident autonomy and choice
- Increase adequate nutrition and hydration
- Improve continence and skin integrity
- Increase functional independence and mobility
- Avoid or reduce depression by increasing participation in activities meaningful to the resident
- Avoid or decrease behavioral symptoms by identifying and responding to unmet needs

Issues Related to Staff

- Avoid or decrease staff turnover and increasing consistent assignment of staff to residents
- Promote improvement by encouraging quick enforcement of regulations

Eligibility

Projects may address issues or needs of both nonprofit and for-profit nursing homes. However, applications are accepted only from nonprofits with tax-exempt status and public agencies that operate within Oregon. At this time the fund is focused only on nursing homes and is not available for assisted living facilities. Except as noted above, grants will **not** be made for equipment or capital projects, or to replace other funding where it is not demonstrated that OCF support will make a significant difference.

Application Procedures

- ✓ Applicants must submit their proposals using the OCF application format (a separate document which can be found on the OCF website at www.oregoncf.org/BNHC).
- ✓ Completed application must be received at OCF by 5 p.m., February 7.
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For Additional Information

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