

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 governing the distribution and sale of alcohol on public health. The negative impacts of excessive alcohol consumption on health are well known; however, the impacts that laws and policies (e.g., availability of alcohol) have on alcohol consumption have not been studied in nearly as much detail. Voter Initiative 1183 is in effect as of June 1, 2012 in Washington, making Washington no longer an alcohol "control" state. This provides an opportunity to learn more about the impact that deregulation will have on alcohol sales and consumption, and in turn, public health, by comparing changes in Washington to Oregon, which is still a "control" state.

It is already known that deregulation in Washington will lead to changes in alcohol sales and consumption, particularly as involves the sale of hard liquor, which was only available in state controlled stores prior to June 1. To evaluate these changes, the project will assess (1) changes in consumption patterns among youth and adults, (2) changes in predictors of consumption (perceptions and consequences), (3) alcohol-related public health effects, and (4) economic 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 statewide self report surveys of youth and adults; social indicator data from existing administrative sources (for instance, car crash and hospitalization data); sales tax revenue; and the expansion of a panel survey of college students. This strategy focuses attention on the impact of the change in Washington laws on the public health issues related to alcohol consumption.

As a result of the lack of evidence on how deregulation affects excessive alcohol consumption and associated financial costs, marketing for passage of Voter Initiative 1183 was able to ignore potential public health consequences and costs, and deregulation was promoted as a revenue-generating strategy. The findings of the proposed study will allow policy makers in Washington to better understand how deregulation impacts public health, and can be used by other states, such as Oregon, that still have "control" policies as they consider deregulation.

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 \$315,000 over a 30 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 alcohol 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 deregulation of the distribution and sale of alcohol.

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. Through the project, these partners will work with government agencies such as Office of the Attorney General, Liquor 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.

ATTACHMENT A

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 a 30 month project period.
- **What are the estimated filing timelines?**
The application is due on July 10, 2012.
- **If a grant, what period does the grant cover?**
The grant covers the 30 month period beginning November 15, 2012.
- **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.

ATTACHMENT B

Required Signatures

Elected Official or
Department/
Agency Director: KaRin Johnson for Lillian Shurley Date: 06/19/12

Budget Analyst: Althea Gregory /s/ Date: 06/20/12