Health Resources and Services Administration

Program Announcement for Grant Programs Administered by the Division of Associated, Dental and Public Health Professions, Bureau of Health Professions for Fiscal Year 1997

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces that applications will be accepted for eight grant programs for fiscal year (FY) 1997 under the authority of title VII of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, as amended by the Health Professions Education Extension Amendments of 1992, Pub. L. 102-408, dated October 13, 1992. These programs include:

2. Grants for Residency Training and Advanced Education in the General Practice of Dentistry (section 749, PHS Act)
3. Public Health Special Project Grants (section 762, PHS Act) Review criteria are proposed.
4. Chiropractic Demonstration Project Grants (section 782, PHS Act)
5. Allied Health Grant Program (section 767, PHS Act)
6. Geriatric Education Centers (GECs) (section 777(a), PHS Act) Review criteria are proposed.
7. Grants for the Health Administration Traineeships and Special Projects Program (section 771, PHS Act)
8. Dental Public Health Specialty Training Grants (section 763, PHS Act) Review criteria and the minimum percentages for “high rate” and “Significant Increase in the Rate” for implementation of the general statutory funding preference are proposed.

The table below provides budget information for the grant programs administered by the Division of Associated, Dental and Public Health Professions in FY 1997.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program title</th>
<th>Available for this program</th>
<th>Continuation support</th>
<th>Available for competing awards</th>
<th>Average competing award expected and number of awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Training for Health Care for Rural Areas ..........</td>
<td>$4,081,000</td>
<td>$1,708,276</td>
<td>$2,372,473</td>
<td>$175,000 (14 grants).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residency Training and Advanced Education in the General Practice of Dentistry.</td>
<td>$3,720,000</td>
<td>$2,178,000</td>
<td>$1,542,000</td>
<td>$100,000 (11 grants).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health Special Projects ........................................</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
<td>$150,000 (11 grants).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chiropractic Demonstration Projects ....................................</td>
<td>$788,500</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>$788,500</td>
<td>$200,000 (3 grants).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allied Health Projects ..................................................</td>
<td>$3,767,000</td>
<td>$1,122,000</td>
<td>$2,644,085</td>
<td>$100,000 (25 grants).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geriatric Education Centers ............................................</td>
<td>$5,778,000</td>
<td>$3,720,000</td>
<td>$1,853,000</td>
<td>$145,000 (12 grants).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Administration Traineeships and Special Projects ............</td>
<td>$1,076,000</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>$1,076,000</td>
<td>$25,000 (40 grants).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Public Health Specialty Training ................................</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$90,000 (6 grants).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The purpose and eligibility for each of these programs are listed below as well as additional information depending on the individual program.

1. Grants for Interdisciplinary Training for Health Care for Rural Areas

Purpose

Section 778 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, authorizes the Secretary to award grants for interdisciplinary training projects designed to provide or improve access to health care in rural areas. Specifically, projects funded under this authority shall be designed to:

(a) use new and innovative methods to train health care practitioners to provide services in rural areas;
(b) demonstrate and evaluate innovative interdisciplinary methods and models designed to provide access to cost-effective comprehensive health care;
(c) deliver health care services to individuals residing in rural areas;
(d) enhance the amount of relevant research conducted concerning health care issues in rural areas; and
(e) increase the recruitment and retention of health care practitioners in rural areas and make rural practice a more attractive career choice for health care practitioners.

A recipient of funds may use various methods in carrying out the projects described above. The legislation cites the following methods as examples:

(a) the distribution of stipends to students of eligible applicants;
(b) the establishment of a postdoctoral fellowship program;
(c) the training of faculty in the economic and logistical problems confronting rural health care delivery systems; or
(d) the purchase or rental of transportation and telecommunication equipment where the need for such equipment due to unique characteristics of the rural area is demonstrated by the recipient.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a Grant for Interdisciplinary Training for Health Care for Rural Areas, each applicant must be an academic institution. Each application must demonstrate the need and demand for health care services, knowledge of available resources and the most significant service and educational gaps within its targeted geographic area. One applicant must be designated the principal organization responsible and accountable for the conduct of the proposed project. Support may be requested for this grant program for a project period of not more than three years.

Definitions

1. Interdisciplinary training means a planned and coordinated program of education or training aimed at preparation of functioning teams of two or more health care practitioners from different health disciplines who will coordinate their activities to provide services to a client or group of clients.
2. Rural means geographic areas that are located outside of standard metropolitan statistical areas.
3. School of or program that "specializes" in health professions.
education means programs that provide education in nursing, mental health practice, optometry, public health, dentistry, osteopathy, physicians assistants, pharmacy, podiatry, medicine, chiropractic, and allied health professions that leads to a certificate, baccalaureate degree or associate degree (or an equivalent degree of either) or to a more advance degree which is accredited by a recognized body or bodies approved for such purposes by the Secretary of Education, or which provides to the Secretary satisfactory assurance by such accrediting body or bodies that reasonable progress is being made toward accreditation.

Statutory Project Requirements

Interdisciplinary training projects funded under section 778 must:
1. Assist individuals in academic institutions in establishing long-term collaborative relationships with health care facilities and providers in rural areas;
2. Designate a rural health care agency or agencies for clinical treatment or training, including hospitals, community health centers, migrant health centers, rural health clinics, community mental health centers, long-term care facilities, Native Hawaiian health centers, or facilities operated by the Indian Health Service or an Indian tribe or tribal organization or Indian organization under a contract with the Indian Health Service under the Indian Self-determination Act;
3. Not more than 10 percent of the individuals receiving training with section 778 funds shall be trained as doctors of medicine or osteopathic medicine; and
4. A grantee may not use more than 10 percent of the grant funds for administrative cost.
5. Funds received under this section shall be used to supplement, not supplant, amounts made available by such institution for activities of the type described in the “Purpose.”

Established Funding Priority

The following funding priority was established in FY 1993 after public comment (58 FR 5741, January 22, 1993) and the Administration is extending this funding priority in FY 1997. In determining the order of funding of approved applications a priority will be given to applicant institutions (academic) which demonstrate either substantial progress over the last three years or a significant experience of ten or more years in enrolling and graduating trainees from those minority or low-income populations identified as at risk of poor health outcomes.

Proposed Review Criteria

The substantive content of the review criteria of the program have not changed from those previously published; however, they have been re-worded to make them more understandable. In addition, a new criterion is proposed in number (11) relating to the evaluation procedures of the program.

Applications will be reviewed and rated according to the applicant's ability to meet the following:
1. The potential effectiveness of the proposed project in carrying out the training purposes of section 778 of the act.
2. The extent to which the project explains the need for the project in the rural area to be served;
3. The degree to which the proposed project adequately provides for the interdisciplinary training of health professionals to practice in the rural area to be addressed by the project;
4. The degree to which the applicant offers interdisciplinary training experiences with at least three disciplines in rural health care settings of sufficient length and content;
5. The degree to which the applicant demonstrates a commitment to establishing and maintaining long-term collaborative relationships between academic institutions and health care facilities and providers in rural areas;
6. The degree to which the effectiveness of the organizational arrangements necessary to carry out the project have been documented to include the administrative and organizational relationships between and among the various academic programs, health departments, and/or nonprofit organizations and rural health care agencies;
7. The administrative and management capability of the applicant to carry out the proposed didactic and clinical curriculum in an effective manner working with three or more health care disciplines;
8. The capability of the proposed staff and faculty to provide the competencies/skills needed by the trainees to enhance their ability to pursue rural health practice and interdisciplinary care;
9. The extent to which the trainee recruitment and selection process assures that qualified trainees with significant interest or background in rural health care are involved in the project;
10. The extent to which the budget justification is reasonable and indicates that institutional and community support to the project are provided to the maximum extent possible;
11. The adequacy of the evaluation mechanism to measure the education performance outcomes using primary, secondary and tertiary data for each objective for each grant year and to provide the basis for continual quality improvement at the academic institution and the rural health facility; and
12. The extent to which the financial information provided indicates a cost-effective utilization of grant funds and indicates that the project will continue on a self-sustaining basis.

2. Grants for Residency Training and Advanced Education in the General Practice of Dentistry

Purpose and Legislative Authority

Section 749 of the PHS Act authorizes the Secretary to make grants to any public or nonprofit private school of dentistry or accredited postgraduate dental training institution (e.g., hospitals and medical centers):
1. To plan, develop, and operate an approved residency program in the general practice of dentistry or an approved advanced educational program in the general practice of dentistry;
2. To provide financial assistance to participants in such a program who are in need of financial assistance and who plan to specialize in the practice of general dentistry; and
3. To fund innovative, nontraditional models for the provision of postdoctoral General Dentistry training.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a Grant for Residency Training and Advanced Education in the General Practice of Dentistry, the applicant shall:
1. Be a public or nonprofit private school of dentistry or an accredited postgraduate dental training institution (hospital, medical center, or other entity) and be accredited by the appropriate accrediting body, and
2. Be located in any one of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

To receive support, programs must meet the requirements of final regulations at 42 CFR Part 57, Subpart L. The period of Federal support may not exceed 3 years.
Categories of Program Support

There is no funding preference between residency training programs and advanced educational programs in general dentistry. Grant support will be available for three distinct categories of program development. Applications must address at least one of these categories.

Category 1: Program Initiation

An applicant may request support to assist in establishing a new program. Support may be for 3 years of program operation, or for up to 1 year of program planning and development, followed by 2 years of program operation. An applicant must show, at a minimum, a preliminary and provisional approval from the Commission on Dental Accreditation before the initial grant award date (grants will be effective July 1, 1997). Before a second year grant award will be made, the grantee must show an accreditation classification of Accreditation Eligible.

Category 2: Program Expansion

An applicant may request support for an existing program which has full approval accreditation classification to fund the cost of a first-year enrollment increase in the program.

Category 3: Program Improvement

An applicant may request support for an existing program which has conditional approval or provisional approval accreditation to correct deficiencies or weaknesses in order to gain full approval accreditation status. Support is also available for an existing program which has full approval accreditation for changes or additions in faculty, curriculum and/or facilities to enhance the quality of the program.

Review Criteria

The review of applications will take into consideration the following criteria:

1. The potential effectiveness of the proposed project in carrying out the training purposes of section 749 of the Act.
2. The degree to which the proposed project adequately provides for meeting the project requirements.
3. The administrative and managerial capability of the applicant to carry out the proposed project in a cost-effective manner.
4. The extent to which the objectives of the project are consistent with the purposes of the grant program and the extent to which the evaluation methodology will effectively assess the impact of the project.
5. The extent to which the proposal demonstrates a need for the project.
6. The extent to which present or potential problems are understood by the applicant and the extent to which solutions to these problems have been developed.
7. The extent to which the organizational and administrative relationships between institutional and programmatic components of the project enhance the achievement of project objectives.
8. The extent to which the curriculum will enhance the trainee's ability to become an efficient, effective, and competent practitioner of general dentistry.
9. The qualifications of proposed staff and faculty.
10. The extent to which the trainee recruitment and selection process assures that highly qualified trainees with a true interest in general practice are enrolled in the program.
11. The extent to which the facilities and equipment used in the training program are appropriate to the general practice of dentistry.
12. The potential of the project to continue on a self-sustaining basis after the period of grant support.
13. The extent to which the budget justification is reasonable and indicates that institutional support to the project is provided to the maximum extent possible.
14. The degree to which the proposed project proposes to attract, maintain and graduate minority and disadvantaged students.

Program Requirements

The Program Requirements referenced in Review Criterion Number 2, above, are published in 42 CFR Ch.1, § 57.1105. They are listed below:

A. The project staff must plan, develop, and/or operate an approved residency or advanced educational program in the general practice of dentistry.
B. Each project must have at least two participants enrolled in the training program.
C. If the training site provides medical care, then the medical and dental care of patients must be coordinated;
D. If a primary care medical residency program is conducted by the applicant, then joint training experiences must be provided. For purposes of this paragraph, primary care means internal medicine, family medicine, or pediatrics;
E. Each participant who receives stipend support must sign a statement of intent to work in the practice of general dentistry; and
F. The training program, the performance of each participant, and the quality of patient care must be evaluated.

Statutory General Preference

As provided in Section 791(a) of the PHS Act, preference will be given to any qualified applicant that—

(A) has a high rate for placing graduates in practice settings having the principal focus of serving residents of medically underserved communities; or
(B) during the 2-year period preceding the fiscal year for which such an award is sought, has achieved a significant increase in the rate of placing graduates in such settings.

This preference will only be applied to applications that rank above the 20th percentile of proposals recommended for approval by the peer review group.

“High rate” is defined as a minimum of 25 percent of graduates in academic years 1993–94, 1994–95, and 1995–96, who spend at least 50 percent of their work time in clinical practice in the specified settings. Graduates who are providing care in a medically underserved community as a part of a fellowship or other educational experience can be counted.

“Significant increase in the rate” means that, between academic years 1994–95 and 1995–96, the rate of placing graduates in the specified settings has increased by a minimum of 50 percent and that not less than 15 percent of graduates from the most recent year are working in these settings.

Additional information concerning the implementation of this preference has been published in the Federal Register at 59 FR 15741, dated April 4, 1994.

Information Requirements Provision

Under section 791(b) of the Act, the Secretary may make an award under the Grants for Residency Training and Advanced Education in the General Practice of Dentistry program only if the applicant for the award submits to the Secretary the following information:

1. A description of rotations of preceptorships for students, or clinical training programs for residents, or clinical training programs of residents, that have the principal focus of providing health care to medically underserved communities.
2. The number of faculty on admissions committees who have a clinical practice in community-based ambulatory settings in medically underserved communities.
3. With respect to individuals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds or
from medically underserved communities, the number of such individuals who are recruited for academic programs of the applicant, the number of such individuals who are admitted to such programs, and the number of such individuals who graduate from such programs.

4. If applicable, the number of recent graduates who have chosen careers in primary health care.

5. The number of recent graduates whose practices are serving medically underserved communities.

6. A description of whether and to what extent the applicant is able to operate without Federal assistance under this title.

3. Public Health Special Project Grants

Purpose

Section 762 of the PHS Act, as amended, authorizes the Secretary to award grants to accredited schools of public health to plan, develop, demonstrate, operate and evaluate projects that further goals established by the Secretary.

As requested by section 762(e) of the Act, the Secretary established the following four goals for projects as set forth in the 1994 Report to Congress on Evaluation of Special Projects in Public Health Program:

1. Linkages. Establishing and strengthening community-academic partnerships, including linkages with State and local health agencies; community-based organizations; health care facilities; and other education and training programs.

2. Education. Developing strategies to make public health education more relevant to practice and more available to employed public health practitioners.

3. Recruitment. Improving methods to recruit minority and disadvantaged individuals into careers in public health.


Copies of the Report to Congress are available by contacting the Public Health and Dental Education Branch, Division of Associated, Dental and Public Health Professions, BHPr/HRSA, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room BC-09, Rockville, MD 20857; telephone: 301/443-8296; fax: 301/443-1164.

In fiscal year 1997, HRSA is soliciting applications that carry out the Program’s purpose and goals in the following areas:

- Expand the number of community-academic linkages with State and local health agencies, community-based organizations, health care facilities, including managed care organizations, industry, and local educational institutions for the purpose of developing on-site educational experiences for public health students and distance-based continuing education programs for employed public health personnel.

- Establish partnerships with managed care organizations to provide public health faculty, students, and practitioners with the knowledge base and practical skills experience in learning about how managed systems of care can improve the health of underserved communities.

- Develop recruitment and retention strategies to increase the number of minority and disadvantaged individuals enrolled in and completing degree and continuing education programs in public health.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a Public Health Special Project Grant, the applicant shall be a school of public health that has been accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health pursuant to sections 799(1) (A) and (E) of the PHS Act, and shall be located in a State as defined in section 799(9) of the Act. Applicants must assure that students of the school will, through participation in the project for which the award is made, receive training in the activities carried out by the project.

Period of Support

The period of Federal support for a new project may not exceed three years. A competing continuation application may be submitted for 2 additional years of support for the same project, extending the total project period to 5 years. Competing continuation applications may request support for ongoing activities, for new or expanded activities, or for both ongoing and new or expanded activities.

Proposed Review Criteria

The following criteria for review of applications are proposed for public comment:

- Proposal addresses the purposes of the Public Health Special Projects Grant Program and is supported by a well-documented rationale;
- Objectives are consistent with the rationale, measurable, and achievable within the project period;
- Methodology is consistent with the objectives and explained in appropriate detail;
- Evaluation is linked to the objectives and addresses outcomes;
- Administrative and management capability required to carry out the project is documented;
- Budget justification is complete, appropriate, cost-effective, and justified; and
- Plan for institutionalizing project outcomes is specific and realistic.

Statutory Preference

A funding preference is defined as the funding of a specific category or group of approved applications ahead of other categories or groups of approved applications.

As prescribed by section 762(b) of the Act, preference in funding will be given to qualified applicants that agree to the project for which the award is made within the project period; (1) establish or strengthen field placements for students in public or non-profit private health agencies or organizations; and (2) involve faculty members and students in collaborative projects to enhance public health services to medically underserved communities.

4. Chiropractic Demonstration Project Grants

Purpose

Section 782 of the Public Health Service Act authorizes the Secretary to award grants to carry out demonstration projects in which chiropractors and physicians collaborate to identify and provide effective treatment for spinal and lower-back conditions. The period of support is three years.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a Chiropractic Demonstration Project Grant, the applicant shall be:

1. a public or private nonprofit school, college or University of Chiropractic; and
2. enter into a formal agreement as necessary to ensure that a school of
allopathic or osteopathic medicine will
collaborate in the project.

Project Requirements

Specific project requirements
published in the Federal Register at 59
FR 44995, dated August 31, 1994 will be
used for FY 1997:

1. The project must address the
   identification and treatment of spinal
   and/or lower-back conditions.
2. The project must be founded on
   collaborative efforts between the
   school(s) of chiropractic and school(s) of
   allopathic or osteopathic medicine.
3. Each project must include a strong
   research protocol which will result in a
   significant expansion of documented
   research in the area addressed and
   which is suitable for publication in
   refereed health professions journals,
   including research oriented
   publications.
4. The project must include an
   explicit strategy for case-finding and a
   strategy for making direct comparisons
   to other forms of treatment. The results
   must be generalizable to patients cared for
   in clinical practices addressing spinal and/or lower-back conditions.
5. Whenever feasible, minorities and
   women should be included in study
   populations so that research findings
   can be of benefit to all persons at risk
   of the disease, disorder, or condition
   under study.

Review Criteria

The review of applications will take
into consideration for FY 1997 the
following criteria published in the
Federal Register at 59 FR 44995, dated
August 31, 1994:

1. The strength of the rationale for the
   project;
2. The quality and clarity of the
   objectives to be achieved in relation to
   the stated statutory purposes of the
   program and the potential of the project
   for meeting them;
3. The strength of the applicant’s
   institutional background in chiropractic
   training and research;
4. The competency of all faculty, both
   chiropractic and allopathic or
   osteopathic medicine, to be involved in
   the project, including past experience in
   chiropractic and/or chiropractic
   research and allopathic or osteopathic
   research;
5. The proposed methodology to be
   used in carrying out the goals and
   objectives of the project, including those
   pertaining to research and its outcomes;
6. The appropriateness of timelines to
   be used in achieving the project’s goals
   and objectives;
7. The strength of the proposed
   evaluation methodology to be used in
evaluating the accomplishments of the
project, including those pertinent to
research;
8. The strength of the evidence of the
   applicant institution’s commitment,
   including letters of support, to carrying
   out the project successfully and the
   institutional commitment of the
   allopathic or osteopathic school of
   medicine collaborating in the project;
9. The suitability and availability of
   all proposed facilities and resources to
   be used in carrying out the project;
10. The appropriateness of the
    proposed budget and fiscal plan for
    carrying out the project and the
    administrative and management
    capability of the applicant to implement
    the project in a cost-effective manner;
   and
11. The documentation, terms, and
    specificity of a formal agreement with
    a school of allopathic or osteopathic
    medicine for its collaboration in
    carrying out the goals, objectives, and
    evaluation of the project.

10. The appropriateness of the
   evaluation methodology to be used in
   achieving the project’s goals
   and objectives;

11. The documentation, terms, and
   specificity of a formal agreement with
   a school of allopathic or osteopathic
   medicine for its collaboration in
   carrying out the project;

5. Allied Health Grant Program

Section 767 authorizes the Secretary
to award grants to eligible entities to
assist such entities in meeting the costs
associated with expanding or
establishing programs that will increase
the number of individuals trained in
allied health professions. Projects will
address expansion of enrollments,
community-based interdisciplinary
training, health promotion and disease
prevention, partnerships, and
innovative approaches to the training of
allied health personnel and the delivery
of allied health services. The period of
support is three years.

Programs funded under this section may include—

(1) those that expand enrollments in
    allied health professions with the
    greatest shortages or whose services are
    most needed by the elderly;
(2) those that provide rapid transition
    training programs in allied health fields
    to individuals who have baccalaureate
    degrees in health-related sciences;
(3) those that establish community-
    based allied health training programs
    that link academic centers to rural
    clinical settings;
(4) those that provide career
    advancement training for practicing
    allied health professionals;
(5) those that expand or establish
    clinical training sites for allied health
    professionals in medically underserved
    or rural communities in order to
increase the number of individuals
trained;
(6) those that develop curriculum that
    will emphasize knowledge and practice
    in the areas of prevention and health
    promotion, geriatrics, long-term care,
    home health and hospice care, and
    ethics;
(7) those that expand or establish
    interdisciplinary training programs that
    promote the effectiveness of allied
    health practitioners in geriatric
    assessment and the rehabilitation of the
    elderly;
(8) those that expand or establish
    demonstration centers to emphasize
    innovative models to link allied health
    clinical practice, education, and
    research.

Eligibility

“Eligible entity” for the purpose of this grant program means:

(1) public or private nonprofit
    schools, universities, or other
    educational entities that provide for
    education and training in the allied
    health professions;
(2) other public or nonprofit private
    entities capable, as determined by the
    Secretary, of carrying out the purpose of
    the Allied Health Project Grants
    Program as described in the application;
   and
(3) be located in the several States, the
    District of Columbia, the
    Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the
    Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
    Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam,
    American Samoa and the Republic of
    Palau, the Republic of the Marshall
    Islands, and the Federated States of
    Micronesia.

Funding Preference

The statutory preferences identified in
Sections 767(b)(2) and 791(a) of the
Public Health Service Act are set forth
below. Applicants who meet one or
more of the following criteria will
receive funding preference. Greater
priority will be given to applicants who
qualify in two or three preference
categories.

(A) expand and maintain first-year
    enrollment by not less than 10 percent
    over enrollments in base year 1992; or
(B) demonstrate that not less than 20
    percent of the graduates of such training
    programs during the preceding 2-year
    period are working at least 50% of
    worktime in clinical settings having the
    principal focus of serving residents of
    medically underserved communities.
Graduate who are providing care in a
medically underserved community as a
part of a fellowship or other educational
experience can be counted; or
(C) during the 2-year period preceding the fiscal year for which such an award is sought, has achieved a significant increase in the rate of placing graduates in such settings. "Significant increase in the rate" means that, between academic years 1994–95 and 1995–96, the rate of placing graduates in the specified settings has increased by a minimum of 50 percent and that not less than 15 percent of graduates from the most recent year are working in these settings.

New Program Funding Preference

Implementation specifics for new programs was published in the Federal Register at 59 FR 15742, dated April 4, 1994. A new program is defined as any program which has graduated less than three classes. A new program will qualify for the above funding preferences if four or more of the following criteria are met:

1. The mission statement of the program identifies a specific purpose of preparing health professionals to serve underserved populations.
2. The curriculum includes content which will help to prepare practitioners to serve underserved populations.
3. Substantial clinical training experience is required in medically underserved communities.
4. A minimum of 20 percent of the faculty spend at least 50 percent of their time providing/supervising care in medically underserved communities.
5. The entire program or a substantial portion of the program is physically located in a medically underserved community.
6. Student assistance, which is linked to service in medically underserved communities following graduation, is available to the students in the program.
7. The program provides a placement mechanism for placing graduates in medically underserved communities.

Review Criteria

The review criteria, stated below, which were established in FY 1990 (55 FR 12424, dated April 3, 1990) after public comment, will remain unchanged in FY 1997.

1. The extent to which the proposed project meets the legislative purpose;
2. The background and rationale for the proposed project;
3. The extent to which the project contains clearly stated realistic and achievable objectives;
4. The extent to which the project contains a methodology which is integrated and compatible with project objectives, including collaborative arrangements and feasible workplans;
5. The evaluation plans and procedures for program and trainees, if involved;
6. The administrative and management capability of the applicant to carry out the proposed project, including institutional infrastructure and resources;
7. The extent to which the budget justification is complete, cost-effective and includes cost-sharing, when applicable; and
8. Whether there is an institutional plan and commitment for self-sufficiency when Federal support ends.

Information Requirements Provision

Under section 791(b) of the Act, the Secretary may make an award under the Allied Health Project Grants only if the applicant for the award submits to the Secretary the following information:

1. A description of rotations or preceptorships for students, or clinical training programs for residents, that have the principal focus of providing health care to medically underserved communities.
2. The number of faculty on admissions committees who have a clinical practice in community-based ambulatory settings in medically underserved communities.
3. With respect to individuals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds or from medically underserved communities, the number of such individuals who are recruited for academic programs of the applicant, the number of such individuals who are admitted to such programs, and the number of schools individuals who graduate from such programs.
4. If applicable, the number of recent graduates who have chosen careers in primary health care.
5. The number of recent graduates whose practices are serving medically underserved communities.
6. A description of whether and to what extent the applicant is able to operate without Federal assistance under this title.

6. Grants for Geriatric Education Centers

Section 777(a) of the Public Health Service Act authorizes the Secretary to make grants to support the development of collaborative arrangements involving several health professions schools and health care facilities. These arrangements, called Geriatric Education Centers (GECs), facilitate training of health professional faculty, students, and practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease, disability, and other health problems of the aged. Health professionals include allopathic physicians, osteopathic physicians, dentists, optometrists, podiatrists, pharmacists, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, chiropractors, clinical psychologists, health administrators, and allied health professionals.

Projects supported under these grants must offer training involving four or more health professions, one of which must be allopathic or osteopathic medicine. Projects must address one or more of the statutory purposes listed below:

(a) improve the training of health professionals in geriatrics;
(b) develop and disseminate curricula relating to the treatment of the health problems of elderly individuals;
(c) expand and strengthen instruction in methods of such treatment;
(d) support the training and retraining of faculty to provide such instruction;
(e) support continuing education of health professionals and allied health professionals who provide such treatment; and
(f) establish new affiliations with nursing homes, chronic and acute disease hospitals, ambulatory care centers, and senior centers in order to provide students with clinical training in geriatric medicine.

Recommendations to assist GECs in developing programmatic objectives are set forth in the HRSA’s publication entitled A National Agenda for Geriatric Education: White Papers. Copies of the White Papers and the GEC excerpts from it are available by contacting the Interdisciplinary, Geriatrics and Allied Health Branch, Division of Associated, Dental and Public Health Professions, BHPr/HRSA, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 8–103, Rockville, MD 20857; telephone: 301/443–6887; fax: 301/443–1164.

Eligibility

Grants may be made to accredited health professions schools as defined by section 799(1), or programs for the training of physician assistants as defined by section 799(3), or schools of allied health as defined in section 799(4), or schools of nursing as defined by section 853(2).

Applicants must be located in the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Federated States of Micronesia. The initial period of Federal support should not exceed 3 years. Projects may recompete for an additional 3 years.
Proposed Review Criteria

The following review criteria are proposed for FY 1997:

1. The degree to which the proposed project adequately provides for the project requirements;
2. The extent to which the project achieves the specific objectives of the project and the extent to which these regulations are consistent with the amended statute.
3. The ability of the project to achieve the program's objectives within the proposed geographic area;
4. The adequacy of educational facilities and clinical training settings to accomplish objectives;
5. The adequacy of organizational arrangements involving professional schools and other organizations necessary to carry out the project;
6. The adequacy of the qualifications and experience in geriatrics of the project director, staff, and faculty;
7. The administrative and managerial ability of the applicant to carry out the proposed project in a cost-effective manner, and;
8. The potential of the project to continue on a self-sustaining basis.

If applicable, the extent to which the institutions jointly have planned and will conduct the proposed consortia activities.

9. The potential of the project to recruit minority faculty members and trainees for full- or short-term training opportunities.
10. The adequacy of the proposed project objectives related to recommendations from the HRSA's publication of the White Papers.

Review Criteria

The review of applications will take into consideration the following criteria:

1. The administrative and management ability of the applicant to carry out the proposed project in a cost-effective manner;
2. The adequacy of the staff and faculty;
3. The adequacy of institutional resources available to conduct graduate level education, to include the adequacy of teaching facilities;
4. The adequacy of recruitment and placement assistance for students in accord with the legislative purpose and intent;
5. The extent to which the application justifies the need for traineeships and the rationale, objectives, methodology, and evaluation of special project grants.

Statutory Funding Preference

Preference will be given to qualified applicants meeting the following conditions:

1. Not less than 25 percent of the graduates of the applicant are engaged in full-time practice settings in medically underserved communities;
2. The applicant recruits and admits students from medically underserved communities;
3. For the purpose of training students, the applicant has established relationships with public and nonprofit providers of health care in the community involved; and
4. In training students, the applicant emphasizes employment with public or nonprofit private entities.

8. Dental Public Health Specialty Training Grants Purpose and Legislative Authority

Section 763 of the Public Health Service Act authorizes the Secretary to make grants to schools of public health and dentistry to meet the costs of projects to:

1. Plan and develop new residency training programs and to maintain or improve existing residency training programs in dental public health; and
2. Provide financial assistance to residency trainees enrolled in such programs.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a Dental Public Health Specialty Training Grant, the applicant must:

1. Be a public or nonprofit private school of dentistry or public health and be accredited by the appropriate accrediting body.
2. Be located in any one of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.
3. Evidence that it has, or will have available, full-time faculty members with training and experience in the field of dental public health and support from faculty members trained in public health and other relevant specialties and disciplines;
4. Have a program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Support may be requested for this grant program for a fiscal year of not more than three years.

Program Priorities for Fiscal Year 1997

Applicants are encouraged to address one or more of the program priorities within their proposals:

Education. Developing strategies to make dental public health education more relevant to practice and more available to dental public health practitioners. Particularly, expanding opportunities for the specialty education of working dentists with a master's in public health (MPH) or equivalent degrees through
providing care in a medically underserved community as part of a fellowship or other educational experience can be counted.

“Significant increase in the rate” means that, between academic years 1994–95 and 1995–96, the rate of placing graduates in the specified settings has increased by a minimum of 50 percent and that not less than 15 percent of graduates from the most recent year are working in these settings.

Applicants which usually graduate fewer than four trainees per academic year or which are less than three years old will qualify for the funding preference if they meet four or more of the following criteria:

1. The mission statement of the program identifies a specific purpose of preparing health professionals to serve underserved populations.
2. The curriculum includes content which will help to prepare practitioners to serve underserved populations.
3. Substantial clinical training experience is required in medically underserved communities.
4. A minimum of 20 percent of the faculty spend at least 50 percent of their time providing/care in medically underserved communities.
5. The entire program or a substantial portion of the program is physically located in a medically underserved community.
6. Student assistance, which is linked to service in medically underserved communities following graduation, is available to the students in the program.
7. The program provides a placement mechanism for deploying graduates to medically underserved communities.

This preference will only be applied to applications that rank above the 20th percentile of proposals recommended for approval by the peer review group.

Statutory Information Requirement

Under Section 791(b) of the PHS Act, the Secretary may make a grant only if the applicant for the award meets the “information requirement” of the grant through the submission of the following regarding the applicant’s program:

1. A description of rotations or preceptorships for students, or clinical training programs for residents, that have the principal focus of providing health care to medically underserved communities.
2. The number of faculty on admissions committees who have a clinical practice in community-based ambulatory settings in medically underserved communities.
3. With respect to individuals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds or from medically underserved communities, the number of such individuals who are recruited for academic programs of the applicant, the number of such individuals who are admitted to such programs, and the number of such individuals who graduate from such programs.
4. If applicable, the number of recent graduates who have chosen careers in primary health care.
5. The number of recent graduates whose practices are serving medically underserved communities.
6. A description of whether and to what extent the applicant is able to operate without Federal assistance under this title.

Interested individuals are invited to comment on the proposed review criteria for Grants for Interdisciplinary Training for Health Care for Rural Areas, Public Health Special Project Grants, Grants for Geriatric Education Centers, and Dental Public Health Specialty Training Grants. Also, individuals are invited to comment on the proposed minimum percentages for “high rate” and “Significant Increase in the Rate” for implementation of the general statutory funding preference for the Dental Public Health Specialty Training Program.

The comment period is 30 days. All comments received on or before December 2, 1996 will be considered before the final review criteria are established.

Written comments should be addressed to: Neil Sampson, Director, Division of Associated, Dental and Public Health Professions, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, Parklawn Building, Room 8–101, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

All comments received will be available for public inspection and copying at the Division of Associated, Dental and Public Health Professions, Bureau of Health Professions, at the above address, weekdays (Federal holidays excepted) between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Application Availability

Application materials are available on the World Wide Web at address: “http://www.hrsa.dhhs.gov/bhpr/grants.html”. In Fiscal Year 1997, the Bureau of Health Professions (BHP) will use Adobe Acrobat to publish the grants documents on the Web page. In order to download, view and print these grants documents, you will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader. This can be obtained without charge from the Internet by going to the Adobe Web page (“http://www.adobe.com”) and...
downloaded the version of the Adobe Acrobat Reader which is appropriate for your operating system, i.e., Windows, Unix, Macintosh, etc. A set of more detailed instructions on how to download and use the Adobe Acrobat Reader can be found on the BHPr Grants Web page under “Notes on this WWW Page.

If additional programmatic information is needed, please contact the Division of Associated, Dental and Public Health Professions, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, Parklawn Building, Room 8-101, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Questions regarding grants policy and business management issues should be directed to the Grants Management Branch in Room 8C–26 at the above address. Please refer to Table 1 for specific BHPr contact names and phone numbers.

For applicants who are unable to access application materials electronically, a hard copy will be provided by contacting the HRSA Grants Application Center. The Center may be contacted by: Telephone Number: 1-888-300-HRSA; FAX Number: 301-309-0579; Email Address: HRSA.GAC@ix.netcom.com.

Completed applications should be returned to: Grants Management Officer (CFDA#), HRSA Grants Application Center, 40 West Gude Drive, Suite 100, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

Application Forms

The standard application form PHS 398 (revised 5/95), Competing Training Grant Application and General Instructions, will be used for the Chiropractic Demonstration Project program. This form has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act. The OMB Clearance Number is 0925–0001.

The standard application form PHS 6025–1, HRSA Competing Training Grant Application, General Instructions will be used for all other programs announced in this notice. This form has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act. The OMB Clearance Number is 0915–0060.

Deadline Dates

The deadline dates for receipt of applications for each of these grant programs are shown in Table 1. Applications will be considered to be “on time” if they are either:

(1) Received on or before the established deadline date, or

(2) Sent on or before the established deadline date and received in time for orderly processing. (Applicants should request a legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark or obtain a legibly dated receipt from a commercial carrier or U.S. Postal Service. Private metered postmarks shall not be acceptable as proof of timely mailing.)

Late applications not accepted for processing will be returned to the applicant. In addition, applications which exceed the page limitations and/or do not follow format instructions will not be accepted for processing and will be returned to the applicant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHS title VII section number/program title/CFDA number</th>
<th>Grants management contact/phone number/ Email address FAX: (301) 443–6343</th>
<th>Programmatic contact/phone number FAX: (301) 443–1164</th>
<th>Deadline date for competing applications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>778—Health Care for Rural Areas: Interdisciplinary Training Grants—93.192.</td>
<td>Brenda Selser, <a href="mailto:bseller@hrsa.dhs.gov">bseller@hrsa.dhs.gov</a></td>
<td>443–6960</td>
<td>12/18/96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>749—Residency Training and Advanced Education in the General Practice of Dentistry—93.897.</td>
<td>Brenda Selser, <a href="mailto:bseller@hrsa.dhs.gov">bseller@hrsa.dhs.gov</a></td>
<td>443–6960</td>
<td>12/16/96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>762—Public Health Special Projects—93.188 ......</td>
<td>Wilma Johnson, <a href="mailto:wjohnson@hrsa.dhs.gov">wjohnson@hrsa.dhs.gov</a></td>
<td>443–6896</td>
<td>1/06/97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>782—Chiropractic Demonstration Project Grants</td>
<td>Brenda Selser, <a href="mailto:bseller@hrsa.dhs.gov">bseller@hrsa.dhs.gov</a></td>
<td>443–6960</td>
<td>1/20/97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>767—Allied Health Grant Program—93.191 ..........</td>
<td>Wilma Johnson, <a href="mailto:wjohnson@hrsa.dhs.gov">wjohnson@hrsa.dhs.gov</a></td>
<td>443–6896</td>
<td>12/23/96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>777(a)—Geriatric Education Centers (GECs)—93.969.</td>
<td>Wilma Johnson, <a href="mailto:wjohnson@hrsa.dhs.gov">wjohnson@hrsa.dhs.gov</a></td>
<td>443–6896</td>
<td>1/27/97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>771—Health Administration Traineeships and Special Projects—93.962.</td>
<td>Wilma Johnson, <a href="mailto:wjohnson@hrsa.dhs.gov">wjohnson@hrsa.dhs.gov</a></td>
<td>443–6896</td>
<td>12/13/96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>763—Dental Public Health Specialty Training Grants—93.117.</td>
<td>Brenda Selser, <a href="mailto:bseller@hrsa.dhs.gov">bseller@hrsa.dhs.gov</a></td>
<td>443–6960</td>
<td>12/13/96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1

National Health Objectives for the Year 2000


Academic and Community Partnerships

As part of its cross-cutting program priorities, HRSA will be targeting its efforts to strengthening linkages between U.S. Public Health Service education programs and programs which provide primary care services to the underserved.

Smoke-Free Workplace

The Public Health Service strongly encourages all grant recipients to provide a smoke-free workplace and to promote the non-use of all tobacco products and Public Law 103–227, the Pro-Children Act of 1994, prohibits smoking in certain facilities that receive Federal funds in which education, library, day care, health care, and early childhood development services are provided to children.

These programs are not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs (as implemented through 45 CFR part 100). These programs are also not subject to the Public Health System Reporting Requirements.
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) meetings:

**Purpose/Agenda:** To review and evaluate grant applications.

**Name of SEP:** Population Index.

**Date:** October 31, 1996.

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.—adjournment (Teleconference).

**Place:** 6100 Executive Boulevard, 6000 Building—Room 5E01, Rockville, Maryland 20892.

**Contact Person:** Dr. Ishaq Khan, Scientific Review Administrator, NICHD, 6100 Executive Boulevard, 6000 Building—Room 5E01, Rockville, Maryland 20892, Telephone: (301) 496-1696.

**Purpose/Agenda:** To review and evaluate grant applications.

**Name of SEP:** Cortical Granule Envelope.

**Date:** November 4, 1996.

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.—adjournment (Teleconference).

**Place:** 6100 Executive Boulevard, 6000 Building—Room 5E01, Rockville, Maryland 20892.

**Contact Person:** Dr. Hameed Khan, Scientific Review Administrator, NICHD, 6100 Executive Boulevard, 6000 Building—Room 5E01, Rockville, Maryland 20892, Telephone: (301) 496-1696.

**Division of Research Grants; Notice of Closed Meetings**

Pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following Division of Research Grants Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) meetings:

**Purpose/Agenda:** To review individual grant applications.

**Name of SEP:** Biological and Physiological Sciences.

**Date:** November 8, 1996.

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

**Place:** NIH, Rockledge 2, Room 4202, Telephone Conference.

**Contact Person:** Dr. Eugene Zimmerman, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4202, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1220.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the above meeting due to the urgent need to meet timing limitations imposed by the grant review and funding cycle.

**Name of SEP:** Behavioral and Neurosciences.

**Date:** November 20, 1996.

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

**Place:** NIH, Rockledge 2, Room 5146, Telephone Conference.

**Contact Person:** Dr. Ramesh Nayak, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5146, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1026.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the above meeting due to the urgent need to meet timing limitations imposed by the grant review and funding cycle.

**Name of SEP:** Clinical Sciences.

**Date:** December 2, 1996.

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.

**Place:** NIH, Rockledge 2, Room 4214, Telephone Conference.

**Contact Person:** Dr. Dan McDonald, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4214, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1215.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the above meeting due to the urgent need to meet timing limitations imposed by the grant review and funding cycle.

**Name of SEP:** Multidisciplinary Sciences.

**Date:** December 18, 1995.

**Time:** 8:00 a.m.

**Place:** Holiday Inn, Chevy Chase, MD, Contact Person: Dr. Houston Baker, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5208, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1175.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the above meeting due to the urgent need to meet timing limitations imposed by the grant review and funding cycle.

**Name of SEP:** Biological and Physiological Sciences.

**Date:** December 2, 1996.

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

**Place:** NIH, Rockledge 2, Room 5172, Telephone Conference.

**Contact Person:** Dr. Leonard Jakubczak, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5172, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1247.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the above meeting due to the urgent need to meet timing limitations imposed by the grant review and funding cycle.

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