DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Proposed Project: Application for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program (OMB No. 0915-0146): Extension

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program was established to help alleviate the geographic and specialty maldistribution of physicians and other health practitioners in the United States. Under this program, health professions students are offered scholarships in return for service in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). The Scholarship Program provides the NHSC with the health professionals it requires to carry out its mission of providing primary health care to HPSA populations in areas of greatest need. Students are supported who are well qualified to participate in the NHSC Scholarship Program and who want to assist the NHSC in its mission, both during and after their period of obligated service. Scholars are selected for these competitive awards based on the information provided in the application and during the semistructured personal interview that is conducted by a team of two interviewers who use a structured scoring procedure. Awards are made to applicants that demonstrate a high potential for providing quality primary health care services.

The estimated response burden is as follows:

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Federal Set-Aside Program: Special Projects of Regional and National Significance; Data Utilization and Enhancement: Cooperative Agreements for State Information Systems

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds.

SUMMARY: The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces that approximately $428,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2000 funds is available for 6 to 10 cooperative agreements to improve maternal and child health State information systems. All awards will be made under the program authority of section 502(a) of the Social Security Act, the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Federal Set-Aside Program (42 U.S.C. 702(a)). This Data Utilization and Enhancement (DUE) Cooperative Agreement Program (CFDA #93.110 U) will be administered by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), HRSA. Projects will be approved for a 3-year period, with awards at average yearly amounts ranging from $30,000 to $80,000. Funds for DUE cooperative agreements are appropriated by Public Law 106–113.

The DUE competition announced in this notice is a successor to a similar...
competition that was published in the Fall 1999 HRSA Preview and withdrawn in the Federal Register notice of March 30, 2000 (65 FR 16924). The competition has been modified to adjust project expectations to available funding. This announcement will only appear in the Federal Register and on the HRSA Home Page at: http://www.hrsa.dhhs.gov/.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of applications is July 3, 2000. Applications will be considered “on time” if they are either received on or before the deadline date or postmarked on or before the deadline date. The projected award date is August 31, 2000.

ADDRESSES: To receive a complete application kit, applicants may telephone the HRSA Grants Application Center at 1–877–477–2123 (1–877–HRSA–123) beginning April 21, 2000, or register on-line at: http://www.hrsa.dhhs.gov/, or by accessing http://www.hrsa.gov/g-order3.htm directly. Applicants must use the appropriate Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number when requesting application materials. The CFDA is a Governmentwide compendium of enumerated Federal programs, projects, services, and activities which provide assistance. The CFDA Number for the DUE program is: #93.110 U.

This notice and application guidance for the DUE program may be downloaded in either WordPerfect 6.1 or Adobe Acrobat format (.pdf) from the MCHB HomePage at http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/. Please contact Alisa Azarsa at 301/443–8989 or aazarsa@psc.gov/, if you need assistance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Kogan, Ph.D., 301/443–3145, email: mkogan@hrsa.gov/ (for questions specific to project activities of the program, program objectives, or the required Letter of Intent which is further described in the application kit); Curtis Colston, 301/443–3438, email: ccolston@hrsa.gov/ (for grants policy, budgetary, and business questions).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

DUE Program Background and Objectives

The MCHB is directing significant attention to advancing and strengthening essential public health functions, and assisting State programs for MCH and Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) to enhance the State’s analytic capability and information infrastructure. The importance of this issue is evidenced by the recent inclusion of Core Health Status Indicator 08 on “State MCH Data Capacity” in the MCHB’s Title V Block Grant reporting system, which focuses on the ability of States to access key public health data sets related to women, children, and families.

MCHB recognizes the need to improve information collection and analysis by local, State, and Federal agencies. Data collected through separate data collection systems, such as birth certificates or Medicaid, would be more useful for identifying and addressing emerging trends if they were linked. Federal funds have been used to support development of individual State information systems through several initiatives, and there continues to be the need for a Federal role in linking datasets and enhancing information systems.

Authorization: Section 502(a) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 702(a).

Purpose:

This initiative requires the creative application of information technologies to improve the delivery of health care services to mothers and children. It will fund Cooperative Agreements to State MCH, CSHCN, health data agencies, or to an entity designated by one of the agencies for the use and enhancement of extant technologies and resources to better collect, manage, link, and disseminate information to improve the health status of mothers and children. Support will be provided for developing linkages between annual data, registries and surveys. Examples of such systems include: infant birth and death certificates, Medicaid claims or eligibility files, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) files, newborn screening data, hospital discharge information, birth defects surveillance data, and survey data from the Centers for Disease Control-sponsored Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) and Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS). The information obtained should increase the ability of States to monitor health status, investigate health problems, and evaluate initiatives related to women, children and families.

Awards are intended to supplement and/or complement existing activities initiated by States, local communities, and Federal agencies, thus fostering and strengthening collaboration between Federal, State and local public health agencies.

Eligibility

Under project grant regulations at 42 CFR Part 51a.3, any public or private entity, including an Indian tribe or tribal organization (as defined at 25 U.S.C. 450(b)), is eligible to apply for cooperative agreements covered by this announcement. This initiative, however, is particularly directed at State MCH, CSHCN, health data agencies, or to an entity designated by one of the above agencies that are committed to developing or improving the coordination of their maternal and child health-related datasets and are willing to demonstrate this commitment through specified actions.

Funding Level/Project Period

The total funding level for these cooperative agreements is $428,000 annually over a three-year project period, from September 1, 2000 through May 31, 2003. The project period consists of one or more budget periods, each generally of one year duration. Continuation of any project from one budget period to the next is subject to satisfactory performance, availability of funds, and program priorities. The initial budget period is expected to be 9 months, with subsequent budget periods being 12 months.

An estimated six to ten awards will be made annually, with average first-year awards ranging from $30,000 to $80,000.

Funding Priorities and/or Preferences

In view of the demonstrable State commitment required, preference in making awards will be given to State MCH, CSHCN, health data agencies, or to an entity designated by one of the above agencies.

Federal Involvement in Cooperative Agreements

It is anticipated that substantial Federal programmatic involvement will be required in these Cooperative Agreements during their performance. This means that after award, Federal staff will provide technical assistance and guidance to, coordinate and participate in, certain programmatic activities of award recipients beyond their normal stewardship responsibilities in the administration of grants. In addition to the usual monitoring and technical assistance provided under grants, MCHB responsibilities for the DUE cooperative agreements will include the following:

1) Provision of the services of experienced MCHB personnel through participation in the planning and development of all phases of this project;
2) Participation, as appropriate, in any conferences and meetings conducted during the period of the Cooperative Agreement;
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[DOCKET NO. FR–4560–C–05]

FY 2000 Super Notice of Funding Availability (SuperNOFA) for HUD’s Housing, Community Development and Empowerment Programs and Section 8 Housing Voucher Assistance; Notice of Clarifications and Modifications of the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) and Extension of Application Deadline for FHIP Initiatives

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, HUD.

ACTION: Super Notice of Funding Availability (SuperNOFA) for HUD grant programs; notice of clarifications and modifications for the FHIP funding availability announcement.

SUMMARY: On February 24, 2000, HUD published its Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 Super Notice of Funding Availability (SuperNOFA) for HUD’s Housing, Community Development, and Empowerment Programs and Section 8 Housing Voucher Assistance. This document makes certain modifications and clarifications to the FY 2000 funding availability announcement for the FHIP Program.

DATES: Except for the applications submitted under the Fair Housing Partnership Components for the Private Enforcement Initiative (EOI) and the Private Enforcement Initiative (PEI), the application due date for funding under FHIP is extended to June 2, 2000. The application due date for applications submitted under the Fair Housing Partnership Components of EOI and PEI is extended to June 30, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may contact Lauren怡 Dixon, Director, FHIP–FHAP Support Division, Office of Programs, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC, at (202) 708–0800 (this is not a toll free number). Persons with speech or hearing impairments may call the FHIP–FHAP Division by dialing 1–800–290–1671, or 1–800–877–8399 (the Federal Information Relay Service TTY). Other than the “800” number, these numbers are not toll-free. You may also call the SuperNOFA Information Center, which you may reach by calling 1–800–HUD–8929 or the Center’s TTY number at 1–800–HUD–2009.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: On February 24, 2000 [FR–9322], HUD published its Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 Super Notice of Funding Availability (SuperNOFA) for HUD’s Housing, Community Development, and Empowerment Programs and Section 8 Housing Voucher Assistance. The FY 2000 SuperNOFA announced the availability of approximately $2.424 billion in HUD program funds covering 39 grant categories within programs operated and administered by HUD offices and Section 8 housing voucher assistance.

This document makes certain modifications and clarifications to the FY 2000 funding availability announcement for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP). The funding availability announcement for FHIP (FHIP NOFA) is found at page 9485 [65 FR 9485] of the February 24, 2000 SuperNOFA.

The modifications and clarifications made by this document do the following:

(1) Change the impact of the immigrant and other underserved populations provision with respect to the General Components of the Private Enforcement (PEI) and Education and Outreach (EOI) Initiatives by advising applicants that points will no longer be awarded under these two components for applicants that devote a portion of their activities and budget to the needs of these underserved populations;

(2) Revise the provision found in the Program Requirements Section (Part IV of the FHIP NOFA) so that an awardee will be required to reimburse the United States for FHIP funded enforcement activity when it receives compensation in a settlement or conciliation; however, the awardee will not be required to reimburse the United States when the compensation is awarded in a final judgment;

(3) Set forth technical and conforming language for errors identified in the FHIP NOFA; and

(4) Extend the application due date for applications submitted under the Fair Housing Partnership Components of EOI and PEI to June 30, 2000. For all other Initiatives/Components, the closing date for submitting applications is extended to June 2, 2000.

The corrections that follow are organized in the order of the above description of the four types of changes. Accordingly, in the Super Notice of Funding Availability for Housing, Community Development, and Empowerment Programs and Section 8 Housing Voucher Assistance for Fiscal Year 2000, notice document 00–4123, beginning at 65 FR 9322, in the issue of Friday, February 24, 2000, the following clarifications and corrections are made to the FHIP NOFA, commencing at page 9487:

Claude Earl Fox,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00–11016 Filed 5–2–00; 8:45 am]