

individuals, non-profit institutions, businesses and other for-profit organizations, and small businesses and entities. HRSA proposes to make some changes in the data elements, to

improve their value and/or reduce the burden of data collection and reporting. To allow adequate lead time, the changes for most of the forms would be effective for data collection by service

providers beginning in January, 1998; the changes to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Annual Administrative Report would be effective for reports submitted in March 1997.

The annual burden estimates are as follows:

Form name	Number of respondents	Responses per respondent	Hours per response	Total hour burden
Standard Annual Administrative Report (SAAR):				
Providers (first report)	2,480	1	15.0	37,200
Providers (second report)	500	1	0.5	250
Grantees	99	1	25.0	2,475
Form name	Number of respondents	Responses per respondent	Hours per response	Total hour burden
Report on Low-Volume Providers (MAAR in 1996-97/SAAR in 1998):				
Grantees/Consortia	16	2.3	20.0	740
AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Annual Administrative Report:				
Grantees/Consortia	52	1.2	25.0	1,575
Health Insurance Continuation Program (HICP) Annual Administrative Report:				
Grantees/Consortia	19	2.5	15.0	720
Total	2,579	1.25	13.3	42,960

Written comments and recommendations concerning the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of this notice to: Virginia Huth, Human Resources and Housing Branch, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: September 25, 1996.

J. Henry Montes,

Associate Administrator for Policy Coordination.

[FR Doc. 96-25123 Filed 10-1-96; 8:45 am]

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Final Project Requirements, Review Criteria, and Funding Preference for Regional Nursing Partnerships to Provide Continuing Education in Nursing Informatics for Faculty in Medically Underserved Communities

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces the final project requirements, review criteria and funding preference for the Cooperative Agreements for Regional Nursing Partnerships to Provide Continuing Education in Nursing Informatics for Faculty in Medically Underserved Communities. These cooperative agreements will be funded for one year under the Public Health Service Act, as amended by Nurse Education and Practice Improvement Amendments of 1992, Title II, Public

Law 102-408, dated October 13, 1992, Section 820 (c), Continuing Education for Nurses in Medically Underserved Communities.

Purpose

The purpose of the cooperative agreements is to support the formation of partnerships between recognized regional nursing organizations and nursing entities qualified to provide continuing education in nursing informatics for nursing faculty in schools located in, or preparing students to serve in, medically underserved communities. Nursing informatics is defined as the integration of nursing science, computer science, and information science applied to the identification, collection, analysis, and management of data for nursing education, practice, and research. Increasing the number of nurses in the workforce who are knowledgeable about nursing informatics, especially those practicing in underserved or rural communities, will enhance clinical proficiency and improve access to and quality of health care for increasing numbers in the population. For the purpose of these cooperative agreements, regional nursing organizations are those regionally based nursing organizations whose members must include schools of nursing in institutions of higher education located within the designated region, and whose

members may also include health care agencies and other health care entities.

The program announcement, published in the Federal Register at 61 FR 37072, dated July 16, 1996, proposed project requirements, review criteria and funding preference. There was a 30 day comment period. Comments on program aspects that were not specifically proposed for public comment are not addressed in this notice.

One comment was received concerning the project requirement for the nursing informatics continuing education program to be completed in a one-week, 30-36 hour session, that includes a computer lab practicum. The comment statement suggested that more suitable continuing education methodologies would include either delivering the entire course via the Internet, to be completed at each participant's own pace; or sponsoring student traineeships to attend graduate nursing informatics programs. Neither suggestion attends to the programmatic purpose of establishing partnerships between regional nursing organizations and nursing entities qualified to provide continuing education in nursing informatics for nursing faculty in schools located in, or preparing students to serve in, medically underserved communities. Therefore, the following project requirements; review criteria, and funding preference remain as proposed.

Eligibility and Final Funding Preference

Eligible applicants include public and non-profit entities. 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 in a discretionary program. A funding preference will be given to recognized regional nursing organizations who enter partnerships with nursing entities experienced in teaching nursing informatics. These entities may include, but are not limited to, schools of nursing. The partner providing the nursing informatics expertise must be located within the recognized regional nursing organization's designated region. It is highly unlikely that any applicant not meeting the funding preference will be supported under this cooperative agreement.

Final Project Requirements

1. Develop a formalized partnership between the regional nursing organization and nursing entities qualified to provide continuing education in nursing informatics.
2. Establish an Advisory Board to oversee the development, administration, and evaluation of the project. The Advisory Board must include at least one non-academically based nurse practicing in a medically underserved community.
3. Utilize an existing assessment of undergraduate and graduate nursing programs within the region to determine:
 - (a) the availability of computer-based systems;
 - (b) faculty knowledge, skills, and abilities in the use of computer-based systems; and
 - (c) the ability of faculty to prepare students for practice in technologically advanced practice environments.
4. Based on analysis of the assessment in #3, develop and implement four regionally-based nursing informatics continuing education programs during the 1997 academic year. Each continuing education program must be designed to:
 - (a) enhance faculty knowledge, skills, and abilities in nursing informatics in the areas of computer technology; human factors; information and database management; professional practice, trends, and issues; system analysis and design; system implementation and support; system testing and evaluation; and theoretical frameworks;
 - (b) include a computer lab practicum;
 - (c) be completed in a one-week, 30-36 hour session;

(d) be provided in two or more different geographic locations to facilitate participation by faculty from distant areas within the region;

(e) enroll a minimum of 14 nursing faculty from schools of nursing located in or experienced in preparing nurses to serve in medically underserved communities;

(f) provide participants a syllabus and reading materials *prior* to the session; and

(b) award continuing education credit in nursing informatics.

6. Project must be documented in a format to facilitate replication by other organizations.

Final Review Criteria

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

1. The need for the proposed project.
2. The potential effectiveness of the proposed project in carrying out the stated purpose.
3. The administrative and managerial capability of the applicant to carry out the proposed project.
4. The efficacy of the proposed partnership.
5. The adequacy of the facilities and resources available to the applicant to carry out the proposed project.
6. The qualifications of the project director and proposed staff.
7. The feasibility of the proposed budget in relation to the proposed project.
8. The potential of the project to continue on a self-sustaining basis after the period of Federal support.

If additional programmatic information is needed, please contact Meribeth Reed, PhD, RN, Division of Nursing, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, Parklawn Building, Room 9-35, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857. Dr. Reed may be reached by telephone at (301) 443-5763, by fax at (301) 443-8586, or by e-mail at: (mreed@hrsa.ssw.dhhs.gov).

This program is not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs (as implemented through 45 CFR part 100). This program is also not subject to the Public Health System Reporting Requirements.

Dated: September 26, 1996.

Ciro V. Sumaya,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 96-25195 Filed 10-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-15-P

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Mental Health; 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 meetings of the National Institute of Mental Health Special Emphasis Panel:

Agenda/Purpose: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Committee Name: National Institute of Mental Health Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: October 21, 1996.

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: Parklawn Building, Room 9C-26, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

Contact Person: Phyllis D. Artis, Parklawn Building, Room 9C-26, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, Telephone: 301, 443-6470.

Committee Name: National Institute of Mental Health Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: November 4, 1996.

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: Parklawn, Room 9-101, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

Contact Person: Donna Ricketts, Parklawn, Room 9-101, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, Telephone: 301, 443-3936.

Committee Name: National Institute of Mental Health Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: November 4, 1996.

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: Parklawn, Room 9-101, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

Contact Person: Donna Ricketts, Parklawn, Room 9-101, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, Telephone: 301, 443-3936.

Committee Name: National Institute of Mental Health Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: November 4, 1996.

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Parklawn Building, Room 9C-26, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

Contact Person: Rehana A. Chowdhury, Parklawn Building, Room 9C-26, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, Telephone: 301, 443-6470.

Committee Name: National Institute of Mental Health Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: November 12, 1996.

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Parklawn, Room 9-101, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

Contact Person: Donna Ricketts, Parklawn, Room 9-101, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, Telephone: 301, 443-3936.

Committee Name: National Institute of Mental Health Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: November 18, 1996.

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Chevy Chase Holiday Inn, 5520 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Contact Person: Phyllis L. Zusman, Parklawn Building, Room 9C-18, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, Telephone: 301, 443-1340.

The meetings will be closed in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5, U.S.C. Applications and/or proposals and the