

Availability of Funds for the Community Scholarship Programs

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of available funds.

SUMMARY: The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces the availability of approximately \$290,000 under section 338L of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act for competing and project period renewal Grants to States for Community Scholarship Programs (CSP).

The purpose of the CSP is to enable States to increase the availability of primary health care in urban and rural federally designated health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) by assisting community organizations to provide scholarships for the education of individuals to serve as health professionals in these communities.

The PHS is committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives of *Healthy People 2000*, a PHS-led national activity. This grant program is related to the objectives of improving access to and availability of primary health care services for all Americans, especially the underserved populations. Potential applicants may obtain a copy of *Healthy People 2000* (Full Report: Stock No. 017-001-00474-0) or *Healthy People 2000* (Summary Report; Stock No. 017-001-00473-1) through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402-9325 (telephone number 202-783-3238).

PHS strongly encourages all grant recipients to provide a smoke-free workplace and promote the non-use of all tobacco products. In addition, Public Law 103-227, the Pro-Children Act of 1994, prohibits smoking in certain facilities (or in some cases, any portion of a facility) in which regular or routine education, library, day care, health care or early childhood development services are provided to children.

DUE DATES: Applications are due May 15, 1997. Applications will be considered to have met the deadline if they are (1) received on or before the deadline date; or (2) postmarked 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 receipt from a commercial carrier. Private metered postmarks will not be acceptable as proof of timely mailing. Late applications not accepted for processing will be returned to the applicant.

ADDRESS: Application materials may be obtained from, and completed

applications should be returned to: Mr. Lawrence R. Poole, Acting Grants Management Officer, Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC), 4350 East-West Highway, 11th Floor, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, (301) 594-4250. The Grants Management staff is available to provide assistance on business management issues. Applications for these grants will be made on PHS Form 5161-1 with revised face sheet DHHS Form 424, as approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under control number 0937-0189.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general program information and technical assistance, please contact Sharley L. Chen, Division of Scholarships and Loan Repayments, BPHC, HRSA, 4350 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, at (301) 594-4400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In FY 1997, approximately \$290,000 will be awarded for 11-12 new and competing continuation grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000 for a 12-month budget period and up to a 3-year project period. Under this program, States enter into agreements with public or private nonprofit community organizations located in federally designated HPSAs. These organizations will recruit qualified residents of their communities and provide scholarships to them to become physicians, certified nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, or physician assistants based on the needs of the communities.

This grant program is intended to be consistent with the efforts of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program, NHSC Loan Repayment Program and NHSC State Loan Repayment Programs to meet the needs of underserved populations in federally designated HPSAs through the placement of primary care practitioners. For purposes of this program, the term "primary health care" means health services regarding family medicine, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, or obstetrics and gynecology, that are provided by physicians, certified nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, or physician assistants. The Secretary is required by statute (Section 338L(l)(3) of the PHS Act) to ensure that, to the extent practicable, not less than 50 percent of the amount appropriated will be in the aggregate expended by the States for making grants to community organizations that are located in rural federally designated HPSAs.

Eligibility Requirements

In order for a State to receive a grant under this program, the State must:

1. Receive funding for at least one grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under any provisions of the PHS Act other than section 338L for the fiscal year for which the State is applying;

2. Agree that the grant program will be administered directly by a single State agency;

3. Agree to make grants to community organizations located in federally designated HPSAs in order to assist those community organizations in providing scholarships to individuals enrolled or accepted for enrollment as full-time students in health profession schools approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services for purposes of the CSP;

4. Agree that 40 percent of the total costs of the scholarships will be paid from the Federal grant made to the State; and

5. Agree that 60 percent of the total costs of the scholarships will be paid from non-Federal contributions made in cash by the State and the community organization through which the scholarship is provided.

- a. The State must make available through these cash contributions not less than 15 percent nor more than 25 percent of the scholarship costs.

- b. The community organization must make available through these cash contributions not less than 35 percent nor more than 45 percent of the scholarship costs.

- c. Non-Federal contributions provided in cash by the State and community organization (as described in a and b above) may not include any amounts provided by the Federal Government to the State, or community organization involved, or to any other entity. Non-Federal contributions required may be provided directly by the State and community organization involved, and may be provided through donations from public and private entities. States should be aware, however, that donations from providers may be subject to provisions of Public Law 102-234, the Medicaid Voluntary Contribution and Provider-Specific Tax Amendments of 1991.

Scholarship Requirements

To receive a grant, the State must agree that it will award a grant to a community organization for scholarships only if:

1. The individual who is to receive the scholarship under a contract is a resident of a federally designated HPSA

in which the community organization is located and will provide primary health care services for:

- a. A number of years equal to the number of years for which the scholarship is provided, or for a period of 2 years, whichever period is greater; or
- b. Such greater period of time as the individual and the community organization may agree.
2. The individual agrees, while enrolled in a health professions school as a full-time student, to maintain an acceptable level of academic standing at the school (as determined by the school in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary pursuant to section 338A (f)(1)(B) (iii) of the PHS Act);
3. The individual and the community organization agree that the scholarship:
 - a. Will be expended only for tuition expenses, other reasonable educational expenses, reasonable living expenses incurred while in attendance at the school, and payment to the individual of a monthly stipend of not more than the amount authorized for NHSC scholarship recipients under section 338A(g)(1)(B) of the PHS Act; and
 - b. Will not, for any year of such attendance for which the scholarship is provided, be in an amount exceeding the total amount required for the year for the purposes indicated in paragraph (a) above.
4. The individual agrees to meet the educational and certification or licensure requirements necessary to become a primary care physician, certified nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife, or physician assistant in the State in which the individual is to practice under the contract; and,
5. The individual agrees that, in providing primary health care pursuant to the scholarship, he/she:
 - a. Will not, in the case of an individual seeking care, discriminate on the basis of the ability of the individual to pay for such care or on the basis that payment for such care will be made pursuant to the programs established in Titles XVIII (Medicare) or XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act; and,
 - b. Will accept assignment under section 1842(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Social Security Act for all services for which payment may be made under Part B of Title XVIII, and will enter into an appropriate agreement with the State agency that administers the State plan for medical assistance under Title XIX to provide service to individuals entitled to medical assistance under the plan.

Evaluation Criteria

For new and competing continuation grants the following criteria will be used to evaluate applications: (a) The appropriateness of the description and documentation of the State's need for the grant; (b) The adequacy of the State's methodology for selecting community organizations to participate in the grant and the overall impact that the community organizations' participation will have on addressing the State's primary health care health professional needs; (c) The extent to which the State's and community's recruitment plans are consistent with the State's plans for meeting the needs of the community's primary care system; (d) The appropriateness and documentation of community commitment with the grant; (e) The extent to which the CSP will coordinate with other State programs designed to alleviate need in HPSAs; (f) The appropriateness of the State's plan to administer and manage the grant, including the credentials of the employees to be involved and their relevant program experience; (g) The adequacy of the State's proposed procedure for monitoring the scholar's fulfillment or breach of the CSP contract; (h) The appropriateness of the State's plans for providing waivers and suspensions; (i) The soundness of the budget and the budget justification for assuring effective utilization of grant funds; (j) The adequacy of a State's assurance that sufficient contributions are available; (k) The reasonableness of the scholarship levels proposed given the cost of health professions programs and the anticipated State and community resources for scholarship funding; (l) The adequacy of the description of the State's proposed ratio and costs of scholarships for both urban and rural federally designated HPSAs; and (m) The validity, reliability, and methodological soundness of the State applicant's internal monitoring and evaluation plan for grants.

Other Grant Information

The CSP is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, as implemented by 45 CFR part 100, which allows States the option of setting up a system for reviewing applications from within their States for assistance under certain Federal programs. The application package for this program will include a list of States with review systems and the single point of contact (SPOC) in each State for the review. Applicants (other than federally-recognized Indian tribal governments) should contact their State SPOCs as early as possible to alert them to the

prospective applications and receive any necessary instructions on the State process. The due date for State process recommendations is 60 days after the application deadline. The BPHC does not guarantee that it will accommodate or explain its response to State process recommendations received after that date. Grants will be administered in accordance with HHS regulations in 45 CFR part 92. The OMB Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this program is 93.931.

Dated: March 24, 1997.

Claude Earl Fox,

Acting Administrator.

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Availability of Funds To Provide Technical and Non-Financial Assistance to Federally Funded Migrant Health Centers on Environmental and Occupational Health Services for Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds, CFDA #: 93.129.

SUMMARY: The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) anticipates that approximately \$305,000 will be available in FY 1997 to support two cooperative agreements for the purpose of providing technical and non-financial assistance to Migrant Health Centers (MHCs) receiving funding under Section 330(g) of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act. These cooperative agreements will provide environmental and occupational health services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers (MSFWs) and their families. These cooperative agreements will be awarded under section 330(k) of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(k)) with a budget period of one year and a project period of up to three years.

The Public Health Service (PHS) is committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives of Healthy People 2000, a PHS-led national activity for setting health priorities. These cooperative agreements are related to the objectives cited for special populations, particularly socio-economically depressed minorities and other underserved populations, which constitute a significant portion of the migrant and seasonal farmworker (MSFW) population. Potential applicants may obtain a copy of *Healthy People 2000* (Full Report; Stock No. 017-001-00474-0) or *Healthy People*