

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Public Health and Science; Announcement of Availability of Funds for Family Planning Services Grants

AGENCY: Office of Population Affairs,
OPHS, HHS.

ACTION: Notice:

SUMMARY: The Office of Population Affairs announces the availability of funds for FY 1998 family planning services grant projects under the authority of Title X of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300, *et seq.*) and solicits applications for competing grant awards to serve the areas and/or populations set out below. Only applications which propose to serve the populations and/or areas listed in Table I will be accepted for review and possible funding.

OMB Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance
93.217

DATES: Application due dates vary. See Supplementary Information below.

ADDRESSES: Completed applications for DHHS Region II should be sent to: Office of Grants Management for Family Planning Services, 101 Marietta Tower, Suite 1106, Atlanta, GA 30323.

Completed applications for DHHS Regions V, VI, VII, VIII, IX and X should be sent to: Office of Grants Management for Family Planning Services, 1301 Young Street, Suite 1124, Dallas, TX 75202.

Additional information may be obtained from the Regional Health Administrator at the addresses below:

Region II (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands):

DHHS/PHS Region II, 26 Federal Plaza, Room 3337, New York, NY 10278

Region V (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin):

DHHS/PHS Region V, 105 West Adams Street, 17th Floor, Chicago, IL 60603

Region VI (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas):

DHHS/PHS Region VI, 1301 Young Street, Suite 1124, Dallas, TX 75202

Region VII (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska):

DHHS/PHS Region VII, 601 East 12th Street, Room 210, Kansas City, MO 64106

Region VIII (Colorado, Montana, N. Dakota, S. Dakota, Utah, Wyoming):

DHHS/PHS Region VIII, 1961 Stout Street, Denver, CO 80294

Region IX (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,

American Samoa, Guam, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands):

DHHS/PHS Region IX, 50 United Nations Plaza, Room 327, San Francisco, CA 94102

Region X (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington):

DHHS/PHS Region X, Blanchard Plaza, 2201 Sixth Avenue, M/S RX-20, Seattle, WA 98121

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON PROGRAM

REQUIREMENTS CONTACT: Regional Program Consultants for Family Planning: Region II, Barry Gordon—212/264-2535; Region V, Janice Ely—312/353-3864; Region VI, Paul Smith—214/767-3072; Region VII, William S. Royster, Jr.—816/426-2924; Region VIII, John J. McCarthy, Jr.—303/844-5955 Ext. 399; Region IX, James Hauser—415/437-8116; Region X, Sharon Schnare—206/615-2501.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY

REQUIREMENTS CONTACT: Region II: June Faizi (Office of Grants Management)—404/331-9584; Regions V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X: Maureen Pickett (Office of Grants Management)—214/767-3401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title X of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 300, *et seq.*, authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to award grants to public or private nonprofit entities to assist in the establishment and operation of voluntary family planning projects to provide a broad range of acceptable and effective family planning methods and services (including natural family planning methods, infertility services, and services for adolescents). The statute requires that, to the extent practicable, entities shall encourage family participation. Also, Title X funds may not be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning.

Implementing regulations appear at 42 CFR part 59, subpart A.

On February 5, 1993, HHS published at 58 FR 7462 an interim rule that suspends the 1988 Title X rules, pending the promulgation of new regulations. The principal effect of this action was to suspend the definitions of "family planning," "grantees," "prenatal care," "Title X," "Title X Program," and "Title X Project" presently found at 42 CFR 59.2 and 42 CFR 59.7-59.10. Proposed rules were also published at 58 FR 7464 on the same date. During the pendency of rulemaking, the policies and interpretations relating to the provision of abortion related services by Title X grantees that were in effect prior to the

issuance of the 1988 rule, including those set out in the 1981 Family Planning Guidelines, are being used by the program. Copies of the pre-1988 policies and interpretations are available from the Regional Program Consultants listed above.

Priorities that represent overarching goals for the Title X program include:

(1) Increasing outreach to individuals not likely to seek services, including males, homeless persons, disabled persons, substance abusers, and adolescents;

(2) Expanding the comprehensiveness of reproductive health services, including STD and cancer screening and prevention, increased involvement of male partners, HIV prevention, education and counseling, and substance abuse screening and referral;

(3) Serving adolescents, including more community education, emphasis on postponement of sexual activity, and more accessible provision of contraceptive counseling and contraception;

(4) Eliminating disincentives to providing long-acting, highly effective contraceptives, serving high risk (and high-unit cost) clients, and providing nonrevenue-generating services such as community education and prevention services; and

(5) Emphasizing training and retention of women's health nurse practitioners, particularly nurse practitioners from population groups that have been under-represented, and nurse practitioners serving disadvantaged and medically underserved communities.

These program priorities are being pursued to the extent that funding or increases in program efficiency allow. Some funding may be available to Title X grantees to improve and expand services.

The FY 1998 budget for the Title X Family Planning Program is \$203.4 million. This amount represents a two percent increase over the FY 1997 budget of \$198.4 million. Of this amount, approximately \$185 million will be made available for the provision of Title X services. Approximately 28 percent of the funds appropriated for FY 1998 and made available for Title X services will be used for competing grants. The remaining funds will be used for non-competing continuation grants in all 10 DHHS regions.

For FY 1998, approximately \$185 million will be allocated among the 10 DHHS regions for both competing and non-competing grants, and will in turn be awarded to public and private non-profit agencies located within the regions.

Each regional office is responsible for evaluating applications, establishing priorities, and setting funding levels according to criteria in 42 CFR 59.11.

This notice announces the availability of funds for competitive family planning service grants in 14 States, the Federated States of Micronesia, the

Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Competing grant applications are invited for the following areas:

TABLE I

Populations or areas to be served	Number of competing grants to be awarded	FY 1998 funding	Application due date	Grant funding date
Region I: No grants available for competition in FY 1998				
Region II: New Jersey	2	\$6,267,314	8/31/97	12/31/97
Region III: No grants available for competition in FY 1998				
Region IV: No grants available for competition in FY 1998				
Region V:				
Illinois	1	5,803,902	8/31/97	12/31/97
Indiana	1	3,934,048	9/30/97	1/31/98
Michigan	1	4,929,377	11/30/97	3/31/98
Minnesota	1	1,880,359	8/31/97	12/31/97
Wisconsin	1	2,791,651	10/31/97	2/28/98
Region VI:				
Louisiana	1	3,500,000	2/28/98	6/30/98
Texas	1	600,000	5/31/98	9/30/98
Region VII:				
Iowa	1	1,728,500	2/28/98	6/30/98
Iowa	1	618,000	5/31/98	9/29/98
Region VIII: Montana	1	1,046,454	2/28/98	6/30/98
Region IX:				
California	2	16,727,662	8/30/97	12/31/97
Arizona	1	2,478,353	8/30/97	12/31/97
Gila River, Arizona	1	146,532	2/28/98	6/30/98
Washoe County, Nevada	1	237,937	2/28/98	6/30/98
Federated States of Micronesia	1	141,353	2/28/98	6/30/98
Republic of Palau	1	45,480	2/28/98	6/30/98
Republic of the Marshall Islands	1	67,864	2/28/98	6/30/98
Region X: Columbia, Willamette Counties, OR	1	644,828	2/28/98	6/30/98
Total	21	53,589,614		

Applications must be postmarked or, if not sent by U.S. mail, received at the appropriate Grants Management Office no later than close of business on application due dates listed above. Private metered postmarks will not be acceptable as proof of timely mailing. Applications which are postmarked or, if not sent by U.S. mail, delivered to the appropriate Grants Management Office later than the application due date will be judged late and will not be accepted for review. (Applicants should request a legibly dated postmark for the U.S. Postal Service.) Applications which do not conform to the requirements of this program announcement or do not meet the applicable regulatory requirements at 42 CFR part 59, subpart A will not be accepted for review. Applicants will be so notified, and the applications will be returned.

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

(1) The number of patients and, in particular, the number of low-income patients to be served;

(2) The extent to which family planning services are needed locally;

(3) The relative need of the applicant;

(4) The capacity of the applicant to make rapid and effective use of the Federal assistance;

(5) The adequacy of the applicant's facilities and staff;

(6) The relative availability of non-Federal resources within the community to be served and the degree to which those resources are committed to the project; and

(7) The degree to which the project plan adequately provides for the requirements set forth in the Title X regulations.

Application Requirements

Application kits (including the application form, PHS 5161) may be obtained by contacting the appropriate Office of Grants Management in Atlanta or Dallas. Limited technical assistance regarding programmatic aspects of proposal preparation is available from the regional offices. For information on administrative and budgetary aspects of proposal preparation, contact the

appropriate Office of Grants Management. An application must contain: (1) a narrative description of the project and the manner in which the applicant intends to conduct it in order to carry out the requirements of the law and regulations; (2) a budget that includes an estimate of project income and costs, with justification for the amount of grant funds requested; (3) a description of the standards and qualifications that will be required for all personnel and facilities to be used by the project; and (4) such other pertinent information as may be required by the Secretary as specified in the application kit. In preparing an application, applicants should respond to all applicable regulatory requirements. (The information collections contained in this notice have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and assigned control number 0937-0189.)

The Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS) requires all grant recipients to provide a smoke-free workplace and to promote the non-use of all tobacco products. This is

consistent with the OPHS mission to protect and advance the physical and mental health of the American people.

Application Review and Evaluation

Each regional office is responsible for conducting its own competitive application reviews. Applications must be submitted to the appropriate Office of Grants Management at the address listed above. Staff are available to answer questions and provide limited technical assistance in the preparation of grant applications.

Grant Awards

Grant projects are generally approved for 3 to 5 years with an annual non-competitive review of a continuation application to obtain continued support. Non-competing continuation awards are subject to factors such as the project making satisfactory progress and the availability of funds. In all cases,

continuation awards require a determination by HHS that continued funding is in the best interest of the Federal Government.

Review Under Executive Order 12372

Applicants under this announcement are subject to the review requirements of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Department of Health and Human Services Programs and Activities, as implemented by 45 CFR part 100. As soon as possible, the applicant should discuss the project with the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for each State to be served. The application kit contains the currently available listing of the SPOCs which have elected to be informed of the submission of applications. For those States not represented on the listing, further inquiries should be made to the Governor's office of the pertinent states

for information regarding the review process designed by their state or the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for the state in question. SPOC comments must be received by the appropriate Grants Management Office (Atlanta or Dallas) 30 days prior to the funding date to be considered.

When final funding decisions have been made, each applicant will be notified by letter of the outcome of its application. The official document notifying an applicant that a project application has been approved for funding is the Notice of Grant Award, which specifies to the grantee the amount of money awarded, the purposes of the grant, and terms and conditions of the grant award.

Thomas C. Kring,

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Population Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 98-5477 Filed 3-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-17-M