

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Public Health and Science; Announcement of Availability of Funds for Family Planning Research Grant

AGENCY: Office of Population Affairs, OPHS, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of Population Affairs requests applications for a grant under the family planning and population research program, authorized under section 1004(2) of title X of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act. This notice announces the availability of approximately \$300,000 to \$350,000 in funding for one (1) year of a proposed five-year research project; it is anticipated that \$300,000 to \$350,000 will be available annually for funding the remaining years of the project.

DATES: Applications must be submitted on or before April 12, 1999, as evidenced by a legibly dated receipt from a commercial carrier or U.S. Postal Service postmark and received in time for orderly processing.

ADDRESSES: Application kits may be obtained from and applications must be submitted to the Office of Population Affairs, Grants Management Office at the following address: 4350 East-West Highway, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Technical Information: Grants Management Office, (301) 594-4012.

Program Information: Eugenia Eckard, (301) 594-4008.

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 to award grants for projects for research in biomedical, contraceptive development, behavioral, and program implementation fields related to family planning and population. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 13.974.) Many persons have observed that gaps exist in the array of data and analyses needed by administrators, planners and researchers in the field of family planning. The need for such data is likely to increase. The purpose of this proposed grant is to increase the availability of data and research-based information which will be useful to family planning administrators and providers, researchers and officials of local, State and Federal governments to improve the delivery of family planning services to persons needed and desiring such services.

One grant with a project period of five years will be made to a public or private nonprofit organization to conduct data analyses and related research on issues of interest to the family planning field. This should include developing estimates and assessments on such topics as progress in attaining national Healthy People objectives for family planning (see below), the need for family planning services, the population currently being served, characteristics of served and underserved populations, and scope of services provided in family planning programs. In order to be competitive, an application should (1) describe a set of information needs in the field of family planning in the United States deemed by the applicant to represent the most pressing data gaps for the efficient and effective provision of family planning services, (2) propose a methodology and process for tabulating program data reported by Title X grantees for each year of this project and providing a descriptive analytical annual report of these program data, and (3) propose a coherent five-year program of research, data analysis estimation and/or assessment designed to fill these needs in a practical and creative manner. The application should outline the frequency of any particular proposed analyses (i.e., continuously, annually, biennially, or once during the five-year project period of this grant), describe the methodologies to be used, and propose a plan to make accessible the products of this project to the Office of Population Affairs as well as to the audience intended, (i.e., administrators, providers and researchers), including via the Internet, for the five-year period of the project. The application should reflect a good understanding of the systems by which family planning services are provided, a familiarity with research, data collection systems and analyses in the area of family planning and population studies supported by other sources, a discussion of the relationship of the studies proposed for support under this grant to studies, research and analyses supported by other sources, explanation of the relevance and importance of the analytic and research activities proposed for support under this grant, and a justification of the expected utility of the analytic products expected from this effort. Applicants should propose a schedule for work for the projected five-year life of this project. It is recognized that other research, changing conditions, or new priorities may cause some activities proposed, particularly for the later years of this project, to be

superseded in importance, and modifications in actual work plans may need to be negotiated between the successful applicant and the Office of Population Affairs, if this situation does in fact develop. Future years of funding are also contingent on a determination by HHS that continued funding is in the best interest of the government.

Although the purpose of this announcement is to encourage applicants to develop and propose analytic strategies which they will pursue if supported under this announcement, the areas described below represent some of the topics appropriate for inclusion in a proposal:

A. Estimates and Characteristics of Clients Served and Population in Need

1. Estimates of the size and geographic distribution of the population at risk of unintended pregnancy;
2. Estimates of the size and geographic distribution of the population in need of subsidized family planning services;
3. Characteristics, in terms of age, race and income or poverty status of the two populations listed above (1 and 2);
4. Estimates of the size, geographic distribution and characteristics of populations in need of family planning services but currently not being served.

B. Patterns and Trends in Delivery of Family Planning Services

1. Patterns of family planning and reproductive health care service delivery among the varied sources of family planning services (clinics, physicians' offices, etc.) and patterns in sources of financing;
2. Patterns of integration of family planning with related services including sexually transmitted diseases (STD) services, HIV prevention, substance abuse and cancer screening;
3. Patterns and trends in providing services to adolescents, including use of school settings, special clinics, special protocols;
4. Patterns and trends in the training, recruitment and retention of clinic personnel;
5. The trends and patterns of family planning services to males and the role and influence of males in contraceptive decision-making and pregnancy prevention reproductive health;
6. Utilization of outreach, follow-up and case management strategies in provision of services to hard to reach clients such as substance abusers, persons at high STD/HIV risk, and adolescents.

The principal purpose of this project is not to collect original data, and

applications which propose to place major emphasis on collection of original data are unlikely to be funded. However, if it is relevant and it can be demonstrated that appropriate data do not exist elsewhere, some collection of original data is not precluded.

The Title X program is intended to address the health needs of all men and women, including all subgroups as characterized by age, class, race and ethnicity. Members of minority groups should be included in all proposed research unless a clear and compelling rationale or justification establishes that such inclusion is inappropriate. Applicants should approach their research and analysis with considerations of class, race, and ethnicity in mind whenever possible.

The PHS is committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives of Healthy People 2000 and 2010, a PHS-led national activity for setting priority areas. This announcement is related to the priority area of family planning. 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, DC 20402-9325 (Telephone: (202) 783-3238) or draft of Healthy People 2010 (<http://www.health.gov/healthypeople>).

Application Submission Procedures and Review Criteria

Applications submitted under this announcement are governed by the regulations set out at 42 CFR part 52. Potential applicants should ensure that their applications meet the applicable requirements of the regulation.

Applicants should request a legibly dated receipt from a commercial carrier or U.S. Postal Service postmark. Private metered postmarks will not be acceptable as proof of timely mailing.

Late applications will not be accepted for review. Applications which do not conform to the requirement of this program announcement also will not be accepted for review. Applicants will be notified, and the applications will be retired. Requests for applications may also be faxed to (301) 594-5980 or e-mailed to opa@osophs.dhhs.gov.

Applications in response to this solicitation will be reviewed on a nationwide basis and in competition with other submitted applications. The review process will take into account the applicant's familiarity with and access to relevant data sets in the areas of family planning and population studies, and demonstrated ability to analyze data and present it in a manner useful to researchers, administrators and family planning providers. The award of a grant will take into account the extent to which the organization's proposal represents a comprehensive plan for developing data analyses, estimates and assessments useful to planners and providers of family planning services, local, State and Federal administrators and researchers in the areas of family planning and population studies, according to the following criteria:

A. The extent to which the proposal presents a coherent and well-justified plan for data analysis and research for the five-year term of the grant;

B. The extent to which the application reflects a good understanding of the systems for provision of family planning services in the United States and familiarity with data systems and relevant research;

C. The extent to which the applicant organization demonstrates the ability to analyze data and make these analyses accessible to providers, planners, administrators and researchers in the area of family planning;

D. The extent to which the application creatively and efficiently proposes to use existing data and analyses, and to fill knowledge gaps by

proposing analyses, research, estimations and assessment tasks to fill the gaps;

E. The extent to which the application provides for periodic reporting;

F. Competency of proposed staff in relation to the research proposed;

G. Adequacy of proposed methodology to carry out analyses and feasibility of the project;

H. Reasonableness of proposed budget in relation to the proposed project, amount of grant funds necessary for completion of project, and adequacy of applicant's resources available for the project.

Applications will be reviewed by an Objective Review Committee and recommended for funding. In making the award decision the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs (DASPA) will take into consideration the priority score, the resourcefulness of the applicant, the methodological merits of the proposal, and the availability of funds.

Review Under Executive Order 12372

Applicants under this announcement are exempt from the review requirements of Executive Order 12372, State Review of Applications for Federal Financial Assistance, as implemented by 45 CFR part 100.

When a final funding decision has been made, each applicant will be notified by letter of the outcome. 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 the terms and conditions of the grant award.

Dated: January 21, 1999.

Denese O. Shervington,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs.

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