

The project, at a minimum, must be able to provide teleconsultations in the following specialty services:

Teleradiology, cardiology, dermatology, mental health and/or substance abuse, obstetrics and gynecology, orthopedics, subspecialties of pediatrics, and stabilization of trauma patients. Applicants may propose to provide teleconsultations for additional services, such as physical therapy, speech therapy, diabetic counseling, dentistry, or otolaryngology.

This grant is intended to support telemedicine for medical diagnosis and treatment of patients, including patient counseling. It is not for didactic distance learning programs, such as lectures or other programs designed solely for the purposes of instructing health care personnel or patients.

Applicants must develop projects that address specific, well-documented needs of the rural communities. In doing so, applicants are advised to consider both the health care needs of the rural communities served by the project, and the extent to which the project can build upon existing telecommunications capacity in the communities to facilitate efficient use of that capacity by multiple users. Needs can be established through a formal needs assessment or by population specific demographic data.

All the grant funding must be used for services provided to or in rural communities. A majority of grant dollars must actually be spent for equipment placed in rural communities and for costs incurred in rural communities, including salaries, maintenance of equipment, and transmission costs.

Eligible Applicants

The demonstration grant award will be made only to an entity located in the western third of the State of Nebraska. The entity can be either (1) a health care provider that is a member of a telemedicine network serving rural western Nebraska, or (2) a consortium of providers that are members of a telemedicine network serving rural western Nebraska. The applicant must be a legal entity capable of receiving Federal grant funds. The grant recipient can be a public (non-Federal) or private nonprofit or for-profit entity, located in either a rural or urban area. Rural spoke sites may be public or private entities, either nonprofit or for-profit. All spoke facilities supported by this grant must be located in the western third of Nebraska, all of which is defined by OMB as a non-metropolitan statistical area.

Review Consideration

Grant applications will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

(1) Extent to which the project facilitates development of an integrated system of care for the rural areas served by the project by providing referral linkages, facilitating consultations among health care professionals, and reducing the isolation of health care practitioners, as evidenced by the strength of the contractual arrangements among the members of the telemedicine network.

(2) Demonstrated ability to monitor the performance of the project, collect data, and participate in an evaluation of telemedicine.

(3) Demonstrated capability, experience, and knowledge by the applicant and other network members to carry out the project.

(4) Reasonableness of the budget proposed for the project.

(5) Level of local commitment and involvement with the project, as evidenced by the extent of cost participation by the applicant and/or other organizations, letters of support, and the feasibility of plans to sustain the project after Federal grant support has ended.

(6) Extent to which the applicant has justified and documented the need(s) for the project, developed measurable goals and objectives for meeting the need(s), and designed a project that could be replicated in rural areas with similar needs and characteristics.

Other Information

Applicants are advised that the narrative description of their program and the budget justification may not exceed 30 pages in length. All applications must be typewritten and clearly legible, using print no smaller than 12 characters per inch and having margins no less than one inch on all sides. Any applications that are judged nonresponsive because they are inadequately developed, in an improper format, exceed the specified page length, or otherwise are unsuitable for peer review and funding consideration, will be returned without further consideration. All responsive applications will undergo objective peer review.

Public Health System Impact Statement

This grant is subject to the Public Health System Reporting Requirements. Reporting requirements have been approved by the OMB—0937—0195. Under these requirements, the community-based nongovernmental applicant must prepare and submit a Public Health System Impact Statement (PHSIS). The PHSIS is intended to provide information to State and local health officials to keep them apprised of proposed health services grant applications submitted by community-based nongovernmental organizations within their jurisdictions.

Community-based nongovernmental applicants are required to submit the following information to the head of the appropriate State and Local health agencies in the area(s) to be impacted no later than the Federal application receipt due date:

a. A copy of the face page of the application (SF 424)

b. A summary of the project PHSIS, not to exceed one page, which provides:

- (1) A description of the population to be served.
- (2) A summary of the services to be provided.
- (3) A description of the coordination planned with the appropriate State of local health agencies.

Executive Order 12372

This grant program is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372 concerning intergovernmental review of Federal programs by appropriate health planning agencies as implemented by 45 CFR part 100. Executive Order 12372 allows States the option of setting up a system for reviewing applications from within their States for assistance under certain Federal programs. Applicants (other than Federally-recognized Indian tribal governments) should contact their State Single Point of Contact (SPOCs), a list of which will be included in the application kit, as early as possible to alert them to the prospective applications and receive any necessary instructions on the State process. For proposed projects serving more than one State, the applicant is advised to contact the SPOC of each affected State. All SPOC recommendations should be submitted to Opal McCarthy, Office of Grants Management, Bureau of Primary Health Care, West Tower, 11th Floor, 4350 East West Highway, Rockville, Maryland 20857, (301) 594-4260. The due date for State process recommendations is 60 days after the application deadline for new and competing awards. The granting agency does not guarantee to "accommodate or explain" for State process recommendations it receives after that date. (See Part 148, Intergovernmental Review of PHS Programs under Executive Order 12372 and 45 CFR part 100 for a description of the review process and requirements.)

This is intended to be a one-time program. Therefore, a Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number has not been requested.

Dated: January 26, 1995.

Ciro V. Sumaya,
Administrator.

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