

Health Resources and Services Administration

Program Announcement for Cooperative Agreements for Basic/Core Area Health Education Center Programs, and Model Area Health Education Center Programs for Fiscal Year 1997

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces that applications will be accepted for fiscal year (FY) 1997 Cooperative Agreements for Basic/Core Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Programs authorized under section 746(a)(1), and Model State-Supported Area Health Education Center Programs authorized under section 746(a)(3), title VII of the Public Health Service Act. To receive support, these programs must meet the requirements of the regulations as set forth in 42 CFR part 57, subpart MM, to the extent they are not superceded by Statutory Amendment to section 746.

This announcement for the above stated programs is subject to reauthorization of the legislative authority. In fiscal year (FY) 1997 the total amount available for the AHEC Program, including Basic/Core AHEC and Model State-Supported AHEC awards, is \$28.495M of which approximately \$12.0 M will be available for competing awards. It is estimated that awards will be made to 12-15 competing applicants including renewals and new starts. These include approximately 7-9 Basic/Core AHEC Program awards and 5-6 Model AHEC Program awards.

In FY 1996, the average award for the Basic/Core AHEC Program was \$1,033,130; and the average award for the Model AHEC Program was \$211,111. These awards support AHEC programs that employ a statewide or regional approach.

Cooperative Agreements for Basic/Core Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program; Section 746(a)(1)

Purpose

Section 746(a)(1) of the PHS Act authorizes Federal assistance to schools of medicine (allopathic and osteopathic) which have cooperative arrangements with one or more public or nonprofit private area health education centers for the planning, development and operation of area health education center programs.

Eligibility

To be eligible to receive support for an area health education center cooperative agreement, the applicant must be a public or nonprofit private

accredited school of medicine (allopathic or osteopathic) or consortium of such schools, or the parent institution on behalf of such school(s).

Period of Support

Applicants may request up to 3 years of support with the expectation that AHECs planned and developed in years 1 and 2 would be fully operational no later than the 3rd year. The period of Federal support should not exceed 12 years for an area health education center program and 6 years for an area health education center.

General Requirements:

To obtain funds for a basic AHEC under section 746(b), a medical school (allopathic or osteopathic) must:

- (a) Maintain preceptorship educational experiences for health science students;
- (b) Maintain community-based primary care residency programs or be affiliated with such programs;
- (c) Maintain continuing education programs for health professionals or coordinate with such programs;
- (d) Maintain learning resource and dissemination systems for information identification and retrieval;
- (e) Have agreements with community-based organizations for the delivery of education and training in the health professions;
- (f) Be involved in the training of health professionals (including nurses and allied health professionals), except to the extent inconsistent with the law of the State in which the training is conducted; and
- (g) Carry out recruitment programs for the health science professions, or programs for health-career awareness, among minority and other elementary or secondary students from the areas the program has determined to be medically underserved;

Provisions Regarding Funding

1. Section 746(e)(1)(B) of the Act requires that not more than 75 percent of total operating funds of a program in any year shall be provided by the Federal Government. However, as provided in section 746(e)(2), for an AHEC center developed as part of an AHEC program first funded under the basic AHEC authority on or after October 13, 1992, a ceiling of 55 percent of any fifth or sixth year of the development or operation of a center is established.

2. The participating medical schools must provide for the active participation of at least two schools or programs of other health professions (including a

school of dentistry), if there is one affiliated with the medical school's university, and a graduate program of mental health practice, if there is one affiliated with the university.

3. At least 75 percent of the total funds provided to a school under any AHEC program authority (Basic/Core AHEC Program(s), or Model State-Supported AHEC Program(s)) must be expended by the AHEC program in AHEC centers and the school is required to enter into an agreement with each of such centers for purposes of specifying the allocation of the 75 percent of funds.

Review Criteria

The following review criteria apply to the Basic/Core AHEC Programs, section 746(a)(1) and the Model AHEC Programs, section 746(a)(3). These review criteria were established after public comment at 60 FR 24638, dated May 9, 1995.

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

1. The degree to which the proposed project adequately provides for the program requirements set forth in sections 746(a)(1) and 746(a)(3);
2. The capability of the applicant to carry out the proposed project activities in a cost-efficient manner;
3. The extent of the need which the proposed AHEC program is addressing in the area to be served by the area health education center(s);
4. The potential of the proposed AHEC program and participating center(s) to continue on a self-sustaining basis; and
5. The extent to which the proposed project adequately responds to AHEC Program performance measures and outcome indicators.

Substantial Programmatic Involvement

The Bureau of Health Professions, within the Health Resources and Services Administration, has substantial programmatic involvement in the planning, development, and administration of the Basic/Core AHEC and Model AHEC projects by:

1. Reviewing and approving plans upon which continuation of the cooperative agreement is contingent in order to permit appropriate direction and redirection of activities;
2. Reviewing and approving all contracts and agreements among recipient medical or osteopathic schools, other health professions schools and the community-based AHEC centers;
3. Participating with project staff in the development of funding projections;
4. Developing, with project staff, individual project data collection systems and procedures; and

5. Participating with project staff in the design of project evaluation protocols and methodologies.

Model Area Health Education Center Programs Section 746(a)(3)

Purpose and Eligibility

Section 746(a)(3) authorizes Federal assistance to any school of medicine (allopathic or osteopathic) that is operating an area health education centers program and that is not receiving financial assistance under section 746(a)(1). Applicants must meet the eligibility conditions of programs as set forth in section 746(b), and the AHEC centers they wish to have included must meet eligibility requirements in accordance with section 746(d).

Therefore, applicants in States where more than one eligible entity exists are encouraged to collaborate in the submission of a single Model AHEC Program application, which reflects a consortium of Statewide programs to coordinate community-based health professions training activities.

Requirements for Model AHEC Programs

a. Coordinate the activities of the program with the activities of any office of rural health established by the State or States in which the program is operating;

b. Conduct health professions education and training activities consistent with national and State priorities in the area served by the program in coordination with the National Health Service Corps, entities receiving funds under section 329 (Migrant Health Centers) or 330 (Community Health Centers) and public health departments; and

c. Cooperate with any entities that are in operation in the area served by the program and that receive Federal or State funds to carry out activities regarding the recruitment and retention of health care providers.

Matching Funds Requirement

With respect to the costs of operating the Model State-Supported AHEC program, the school must make available (directly or through donations from public or private entities) non-Federal contributions in cash toward such costs in an amount that is not less than 50 percent of such costs. These funds must be for the express use of the AHEC Program and Centers, and not funds designated for other categorical or specific purposes.

Section 746(a)(3)(D) states that schools must maintain expenditures of

non-Federal amounts at a level that is not less than the level of such expenditures for the fiscal year preceding the first fiscal year for which the school receives an award. The non-Federal contribution to the AHEC program(s) in the current year is at least equal to the amount to be received from the Federal program as required by section 746(a)(3)(B).

Other Considerations

The principal objective of this legislation is to encourage State coordination and support for AHEC activities. An effective approach for obtaining support from State legislatures is to present a unified plan showing how all the programs are working together to provide the needed services in the State. Competitive applications from one State tend to be divisive rather than unifying in reaching common goals.

Criteria for Allocation of Available Funds

The following criteria for allocation of funds were established in the Federal Register on September 14, 1993, (at 58 FR 48068) after public comment and are being continued in FY 1997.

HRSA will fund approved applications based on the following formula:

1. Annually, the total amount available for funding under section 746(a)(3) will be divided by the total number of AHEC centers in approved applications. This will yield the per center allocation.
2. In accordance with the provisions of section 746(e)(1)(A), at least 75 percent of the awarded funds must be spent by an AHEC program in approved AHEC centers. The remaining 25 percent may be allocated to the AHEC program office and/or other participating schools.
3. A school may expend not more than 10 percent of an award for demonstration project purposes as defined in section 746(a)(3)(E).

National Health Objectives for the Year 2000

The Public Health Service (PHS) is committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives of Health People 2000, a PHS-led national activity for setting priority areas. The Basic/Core Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program and the Model State-Supported AHEC Program are related to the priority area of *Educational and Community-Based Programs*. 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 202-783-3238).

Academic and Community Partnerships

As part of its long-range planning, HRSA will be targeting its efforts to strengthening linkages between U.S. Public Health Service supported education programs and programs which provide comprehensive primary care services to the underserved.

Smoke Free Workplace

The Public Health Service strongly encourages all grant and cooperative agreement recipients to provide a smoke-free workplace and promote the non-use of all tobacco products and Public Law 103-227, the Pro-Children Act of 1994, prohibits smoking in certain facilities that receive Federal funds in which education, library, day care, health care, and early childhood development services are provided to children.

Application Availability

Application materials are available on the World Wide Web at address: "<http://www.hrsa.dhhs.gov/bhpr/grants.html>". In Fiscal Year 1997, the Bureau of Health Professions (BHP) will use Adobe Acrobat to publish the grants documents on the Web page. In order to download, view and print these grants documents, you will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader. This can be obtained without charge from the Internet by going to the Adobe Web page ("<http://www.adobe.com>") and downloading the version of the Adobe Acrobat Reader which is appropriate for your operating system, i.e., Windows, Unix, Macintosh, etc. A set of more detailed instructions on how to download and use the Adobe Acrobat Reader can be found on the BHP Grants Web page under "Notes on this WWW Page".

If additional programmatic information is needed, please contact Carol S. Gleich, Ph.D. Chief, AHEC and Special Programs Branch, (cgleich@hrsa.dhhs.gov) Division of Medicine, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, Parklawn Building, Room 9A-27, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857. Telephone: (301) 443-6950, FAX: (301) 443-8890. Questions regarding grants policy and business management issues should be directed to Ms. Wilma Johnson, Acting Chief, Centers and Formula Grants Section (wjohnson@hrsa.dhhs.gov),

Grants Management Branch, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, Parklawn Building, Room 8C-26, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

For applicants who are unable to access application materials electronically, a hard copy will be provided by contacting the HRSA Grants Application Center. The Center may be contacted by: Telephone Number: 1-888-300-HRSA; FAX Number: 301-309-0579; Email Address: HRSA.GAC@IX.NETCOM.COM.

Completed applications should be returned to: Grants Management Officer (CFDA#), HRSA Grants Application

Center, 40 West Gude Drive, Suite 100, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The standard application form PHS 6025-1, HRSA Competing Training Grant Application, General Instructions and supplement for these grant programs have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act. The OMB Clearance Number is 0915-0060.

Deadline Date

The deadline dates for receipt of applications for each of these programs are shown in Table 1. Applications will be considered to be "on time" if they are either:

(1) Received on or before the established deadline date, or

(2) Sent 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 legibly dated receipt from a commercial carrier or U.S. Postal Service. Private metered postmarks shall not be acceptable as proof of timely mailing.)

Late applications not accepted for processing will be returned to the applicant. In addition, applications which exceed the page limitation and/or do not follow format instructions will not be accepted for processing and will be returned to the applicant.

TABLE 1

| PHS Section No., Title, CFDA No., Regulation | Type of assistance | Period of support (years) | Deadline date |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 746(a)(1), Basic/Core AHEC, 93.824, 42 CFR part 57 subpart MM | Cooperative Agreement | 3 | 3/21/97 |
| 746(a)(3), State Supported Model AHEC, 93.107 | Cooperative Agreement | 3 | 3/21/97 |

These programs are not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs (as implemented through 45 CFR part 100) or the Public Health System Reporting Requirements.

Dated: January 28, 1997.
Ciro V. Sumaya,
Administrator.
[FR Doc. 97-2682 Filed 2-3-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4160-15-P

National Institutes of Health

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to Pub. L. 92-463, notice is hereby given of the meeting of the following National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Special Emphasis Panel.

The meeting will be open to the public to provide concept review of proposed contract or grant solicitations.

Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should inform the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

Name of Panel: Heart and Vascular Diseases Research Opportunities.
Dates of Meeting: March 26, 1997.
Time of Meeting: 8:30 a.m.
Place of Meeting: NIH, Building 31, C Wing, Conference Room 6, 31 Center Drive, Bethesda Maryland 20892.
Agenda: Discussion of Future Initiatives with Emphasis on Critical Health Care Needs

and Research Opportunities Related to Heart and Vascular Diseases.

Contact Person: Frank Altieri, Ph.D., NHLBI/DHVD, Two Rockledge Center, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Rm. 9166, MSC 7940, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-0494.
(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs Nos. 93.837, Heart and Vascular Diseases Research; 93.838, Lung Diseases Research; and 93.839, Blood Diseases and Resources Research, National Institutes of Health.)

Dated: January 29, 1997.
Paula N. Hayes,
Acting Committee management Officer, NIH.
[FR Doc. 97-2725 Filed 2-3-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; 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 Heart, Lung, and Blood Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) meetings:

Name of SEP: Conjugated Pneumococcal Vaccine in Sickle Cell Disease.
Date: February 25, 1997.
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Place: Hyatt Regency Hotel, One Metro Center, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.
Contact Person: Ivan Baines, Ph.D., Two Rockledge Center, Room 7184, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892-7924, (301) 435-0277.

Purpose/Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
This notice is being published less than fifteen days prior to this meeting due to the

urgent need to meet timing limitations imposed by the grant review and funding cycle.

Name of SEP: Collaborative Study on the Genetics of Asthma.
Date: March 18, 1997.
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Place: Crystal City Marriott, 1999 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202.
Contact Person: C. James Scheirer, Ph.D., Two Rockledge Center, Room 7220, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892-7924, (301) 435-0266.

Purpose/Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

These 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 discussions could reveal confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material and personal information concerning individuals associated with the applications and/or proposals, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs Nos. 93.837, Heart and Vascular Diseases Research; 93.838, Lung Diseases Research; and 93.839, Blood Diseases and Resources Research, National Institutes of Health.)

Dated: January 29, 1997.
Paula N. Hayes,
Acting Committee Management Officer, NIH.
[FR Doc. 97-2727 Filed 2-3-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4140-01-M