

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 222 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 217a), as amended, grants to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) the authority to establish an advisory panel if the Secretary finds the panel necessary and in the public interest. The Secretary signed the charter establishing this Panel on January 21, 1999 (64 FR 7849) and approved the renewal of the charter on January 18, 2001. The Panel advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary and the Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration (the Administrator) on opportunities for HCFA to optimize the effectiveness of the National Medicare Education Program and other HCFA programs that help Medicare beneficiaries understand Medicare and the range of Medicare options available with the passage of the Medicare+Choice Program.

The goals of the Panel are as follows:

- To develop and implement a national Medicare education program that describes the options for selecting a health plan under Medicare.
- To enhance the Federal government's effectiveness in informing the Medicare consumer, including the appropriate use of public-private partnerships.
- To expand outreach to vulnerable and underserved communities, including racial and ethnic minorities, in the context of a national Medicare education program.
- To assemble an information base of best practices for helping consumers evaluate health plan options and build a community infrastructure for information, counseling, and assistance.

The current members of the Panel are: Diane Archer, J.D., President, Medicare Rights Center; David Baldrige, Executive Director, National Indian Council on Aging; Bruce Bradley, M.B.A., Director, Managed Care Plans, General Motors Corporation; Carol Cronin, Chairperson, Advisory Panel on Medicare Education; Joyce Dubow, M.U.P., Senior Policy Advisor, Public Policy Institute, AARP; Jennie Chin Hansen, Executive Director, On Lok Senior Health Services; Elmer Huerta, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Cancer Risk and Assessment Center, Washington Hospital Center; Bonita Kallestad, J.D., M.S., Mid Minnesota Legal Assistance; Steven Larsen, J.D., M.A., Maryland Insurance Commissioner, Maryland Insurance Administration; Brian Lindberg, M.M.H.S., Executive Director, Consumer Coalition for Quality Health Care; Heidi Margulis, B.A., Vice President, Government Affairs, Humana, Inc.; Patricia Neuman, Sc.D., Director,

Medicare Policy Project, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation; Elena Rios, M.D., M.S.P.H., President, National Hispanic Medical Association; Samuel Simmons, B.A., President and CEO, The National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc.; Nina Weinberg, M.A., President, National Health Council; and Edward Zesk, B.A., Executive Director, Aging 2000.

The agenda for the July 12, 2001 meeting will include the following:

- Recap of the previous (April 26, 2001) meeting.
- HCFA update/issues.
- Role of the Social Security Administration in Medicare.
- Medicare education operating priorities for 2002.
- Medicare education budget 2003.
- Annual report of the Advisory Panel on Medicare Education.
- Public comment.

Individuals or organizations that wish to make a 5-minute oral presentation on an agenda topic should contact Ms. Caliman by 12 noon, July 5, 2001. A written copy of the oral presentation should also be submitted to Ms. Caliman by 12 noon, July 5, 2001. The number of oral presentations may be limited by the time available. Individuals not wishing to make a presentation may submit written comments to Ms. Caliman by 12 noon, July 5, 2001. The meeting is open to the public, but attendance is limited to the space available. Individuals requiring sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired or other special accommodations should contact Ms. Caliman at least 15 days before the meeting.

Authority: Secs. 1102 and 1871 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1302 and 1395hh).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.733, Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: June 19, 2001.

Thomas A. Scully,

Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Training and Technical Assistance; Cooperative Agreement Announcement

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds; Request for applications.

SUMMARY: The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2001 funds for an open competition for one cooperative agreement with a national organization for a total amount of \$200,000. The goal of the cooperative agreement is to assist people who work in Eligible Metropolitan Areas (EMAs) under the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act to understand and put into action the requirements of the CARE Act as reauthorized in October 2000.

Program Purpose: The applicant will transfer knowledge and provide practical help to a diverse group of people working in HIV-related programs that are located in EMAs regarding the new legislative requirements of the CARE Act. Recipients will include administrative and direct service staff of State/local AIDS programs, State/local health departments, agencies funded by the CARE Act, other AIDS Service Organizations (ASO) and Community Based Organizations (CBO), members of CARE Act planning bodies, and consumers.

Program Requirements: Applicants must propose a plan that will help achieve the purpose through one or more of the following six program objectives. Each program objective directly relates to one of the legislative requirements of the new CARE Act.

(1) Increase the number of people with a history of homelessness, substance abuse, and correctional detention, who are members of Title I CARE Act Planning Councils, or regularly attend or actively participate in Planning Council meetings.

(2) Increase the ability of CARE Act administrators, planning bodies and care providers to identify the unmet needs of PLWH who are not in care, to bring them into care, and to keep them in care.

(3) Increase the number of formal linkages and referral agreements among providers of HIV social support services, HIV prevention services, and HIV care

and treatment services to improve health outcomes.

(4) Increase the number of formal linkages or referral agreements among publicly-funded programs (e.g., CARE Act, Medicaid, family planning, substance abuse, Children's Health Insurance Program), to collaborate on HIV service delivery and planning.

(5) Increase the knowledge of CARE Act administrators, planning bodies and care providers of models and best practices for continuous quality improvement and quality management.

(6) Increase staff abilities and service capacity in organizations serving underserved communities severely impacted by HIV/AIDS.

Under this Cooperative Agreement, HRSA will provide input and be involved actively in the planning and implementation of activities supported by these funds. Proposed activities must support the mutual goals and objectives of HRSA and the applicant.

Service Area: The geographic service area includes the 51 Title I EMAs across the United States, including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

Eligible Applicants: Public or private non-profit organizations with a national membership or constituency whose mission is to address the needs of people who work with HIV/AIDS related programs and consumers of HIV/AIDS services. The applicant must have representatives from Ryan White CARE Act Title I EMAs within its membership or constituency. The applicant must have a history of developing and disseminating informational materials and providing training and technical assistance to HIV/AIDS related organizations within the past 3 years. The applicant must also have experience working on initiatives addressing the needs of Title I EMAs. National organizations that currently have Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreements with the HIV/AIDS Bureau are not eligible to apply.

Availability of Funds: One cooperative agreement will be competitively awarded for a total amount up to \$200,000. It is expected that the award will be made by September 30, 2001. Funding will be made available for a 12-month budget period, with a project period of up to 3 years contingent upon the availability of funds and satisfactory performance.

Authorization: Title XXVI, Part F of the Public Health Service Act, (Title 42, USC), as amended by Public Law 106-345 the Ryan White CARE Act Amendments of 2000, dated October 20, 2000.

Application Dates: In order to be considered for this competition, applications must be received at the HRSA Grants Application Center by close of business on *August 10, 2001*. Applications shall be considered as meeting the deadline if they are: (1) Received on or before the deadline, or (2) Postmarked on or before the deadline date and received in time for orderly processing and submission to the review committee. Applicants should request a legibly dated receipt from a commercial carrier or U.S. Postal Service postmark. Private metered postmarks shall not be acceptable as proof of mailing. Applications received after the deadline will be returned to the applicant and not reviewed.

Application Materials: The Training and Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreement Guidance is available on the HIV/AIDS Bureau web site at the following Internet address: <http://www.hrsa.gov/hab>. The required Federal grant application form (PHS 5161-1) is available at the following Internet address: <http://forms.psc.gov/forms/PHS/phs.html>. For those applicants who are unable to access application materials electronically, hard copies must be obtained from the HRSA Grants Application Center, telephone number (877) 477-2123, fax number is (877) 477-2345, and e-mail address hrsagac@hrsa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Additional technical information may be obtained from Rene Sterling, HIV/AIDS Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 7-36, Rockville, MD 20857. The telephone number is (301) 443-7778, the fax number is (301) 594-2835, and the e-mail address is Rsterling@hrsa.gov.

Dated: June 19, 2001.

Elizabeth M. Duke,

Acting Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Maternal and Child Health Federal Set-Aside Program; Special Projects of Regional and National Significance; Partnership for Information and Communication Cooperative Agreement

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), DHHS.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds.

SUMMARY: The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces that up to \$750,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2001 funds is available to fund one cooperative agreement under the Partnership for Information in Communication (PIC) program activity. This award will be made under the program authority of section 501(a)(2) of the Social Security Act, the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Federal Set-Aside Program (42 USC 701(a)(2)). Within the HRSA, grants and cooperative agreements for Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS) under this authority are administered by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). This announcement solicits applications only from national membership organizations representing certified pediatric care providers. The award for this PIC competition will be made for a four-year grant period, with continuation after the first year subject to satisfactory performance and the continued availability of funds. Funds will come from SPRANS funds appropriated under Public Law 106-554.

DATES: Entities which intend to submit an application for this cooperative agreement are expected to notify MCHB's Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health of their intent by July 11, 2001. The deadline for receipt of applications is August 10, 2001. Applications will be considered "on time" if they are either received on or before the deadline date or postmarked on or before the deadline date. The projected award date is September 3, 2001.

ADDRESSES: To receive a complete application kit, applicants may telephone the HRSA Grants Application Center at 1-877-477-2123 (1-877-HRSA-123) beginning June 26, 2001, or register on-line at: <http://www.hrsa.gov/order3.htm> directly. The PIC program uses the standard Form PHS 5161-1 (Rev.7/00). Applicants must use Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) #93.110G when requesting application kits. The CFDA is a Government wide compendium of enumerated Federal programs, project services, and activities which provide assistance. All applications should be mailed or delivered to Grants Management Officer, MCHB: HRSA Grants Application Center, 1815 N. Fort Meyer Drive, Suite 300, Arlington , Virginia 22209: telephone 1-877-477-2123: E-mail: hrsagac@hrsa.gov.