

input includes the following elements: (1) Corporate and worker liaison committees and a broader-based stakeholders outreach committee will assist NIOSH in obtaining involvement and input from employers, employees, health officials, health professionals, scientists, and public health, advocacy, scientific, industry and labor organizations; (2) A public meeting was held on November 30, 1995, to obtain early input on the research priorities, criteria for selection of priorities, and the process for developing the agenda; (3) Regional public meetings will be held to increase the opportunities for input from employers, employees, scientists, and other public stakeholders across the United States; (4) A final public meeting will be held in March 1996 to present a preliminary research agenda and provide the opportunity for public review and comment; and, (5) Public input throughout the process; the public is encouraged to provide oral comments at the public meetings and written comments through March 6, 1996.

The final agenda will be presented at a scientific symposium commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Act on April 29, 1996.

NIOSH encourages the public to provide recommendations on research priorities, criteria for determining priorities, and the process of developing the research agenda throughout the process. To attend, any or all of these three meetings, or to receive additional information, please contact Mr. Chris Olenec as indicated below. On-site registration will be available; however, to assist in planning for the meeting, advance registration is requested.

ADDRESSES: Written public comments on the National Occupational Research Agenda should be mailed to Ms. Diane Manning, NIOSH, CDC, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, M/S C34, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226.

CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Mr. Chris Olenec, NIOSH, CDC, 200 Independence Avenue, Room 317B, Washington, DC 20201, telephone 202/205-2640 or by FAX (202) 260-1898.

Dated: November 28, 1995.

Nancy C. Hirsch,

Acting Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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Health Resources and Services Administration

Program Announcement for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Programs Administered by the Division of Disadvantaged Assistance, Bureau of Health Professions for Fiscal Year 1996

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces that applications will be accepted for three grant programs for fiscal year (FY) 1996 under the authority of title VII of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, as amended by the Health Professions Education Extension Amendments of 1992, Pub. L. 102-408, dated October 13, 1992. These programs include:

Grants for Centers of Excellence (COE) in Minority Health Professions Education (section 739, PHS Act)

Grants for Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) (section 740, PHS Act)

Grants for the Minority Faculty Fellowship Program (MFFP) (section 738(b), PHS Act)

This program announcement is subject to reauthorization of the legislative authority and to the appropriation of funds. Applicants are advised that this program announcement is a contingency action being taken to assure that should authority and funds become available for this purpose, they can be awarded in a timely fashion consistent with the needs of the program as well as to provide for even distribution of funds throughout the fiscal year. At this time, given a continuing resolution and the absence of FY 1996 appropriations for title VII programs, the amount of available funding for these specific grant programs cannot be estimated.

Funding factors will be applied in determining funding of approved applications for some of these programs. A funding preference is defined as the funding of a specific category or group of approved applications ahead of other categories or groups of approved applications. A funding priority is defined as the favorable adjustment of aggregate review scores of individual approved applications when applications meet specified criteria. It is not required that applicants request consideration for a funding factor. Applications which do not request consideration for funding factors will be reviewed and given full consideration for funding.

Definitions

The following definitions were established after public comment at 56 FR 22440, dated May 15, 1991.

"A significant number of minority individuals enrolled in the school" means that to be eligible to apply for a Hispanic COE, a medical, osteopathic medicine, or dental school must have at least 25 enrolled Hispanic students. Schools of pharmacy must have at least 20 enrolled Hispanic students. To apply as a Native American COE, an eligible medical or dental school must have at least eight enrolled Native American students and a school of pharmacy or osteopathic medicine must have at least five enrolled Native American students. To be eligible to apply for an "Other" Minority Health Professions Education COE, an eligible school must have above the national average of underrepresented minorities (medicine 13%, osteopathic medicine 8%, dentistry 15%, pharmacy 11%) enrolled in the school. Applicants must evidence that any particular subgroup of Asian individuals is underrepresented in a specific discipline. These numbers represent the critical mass necessary for a viable program. A viable program is one in which there is a sufficient number of students to warrant a Center of Excellence level educational program. Stated numerical levels are just above the median for schools reporting a critical mass necessary for a viable program. The requirement that schools applying for Other Minority Health Professions Education Centers have an enrollment of underrepresented students that is above the national average for that discipline is statutory.

"Effectiveness in Providing Financial Assistance" will be evaluated by examining the data on scholarships and other financial aid provided to the targeted group in relation to the scholarships and financial aid provided to the total school population.

"Effectiveness in Recruitment" will be evaluated by examining the first-year and total enrollments of targeted students in relation to the first-year and total enrollments for the entire school.

"Effectiveness in Retaining Students" will be determined by retention rates for the targeted group and academic and non-academic support systems operative for the target group of students at the school.

"Minority" means an individual whose race/ethnicity is classified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Black, or Hispanic.

"Underrepresented Minority" means, with respect to a health profession,