

leading, respectively, to a degree of doctor of medicine, a degree of doctor of dentistry or an equivalent degree, a degree of doctor of osteopathy, a degree of bachelor of science in pharmacy or an equivalent degree or a degree of doctor of pharmacy or an equivalent degree, a degree of doctor of optometry or an equivalent degree, a degree of doctor of podiatric medicine or an equivalent degree, a degree of doctor of veterinary medicine or an equivalent degree, a graduate degree in public health or an equivalent degree, and a degree of doctor of chiropractic or an equivalent degree, and including advanced training related to such training provided by any such school.

As defined in section 799, "State" includes the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa.

Centers of Excellence (COE) in Minority Health Professions Education

Purposes: Grants for eligible Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic, Native American and Other Centers of Excellence must be used by the schools for the following purposes:

1. To establish, strengthen, or expand programs to enhance the academic performance of minority students attending the school;
2. To establish, strengthen, or expand programs to increase the number and quality of minority applicants to the school;
3. To improve the capacity of such schools to train, recruit, and retain minority faculty;
4. With respect to minority health issues, to carry out activities to improve the information resources and curricula of the school and clinical education at the school; and
5. To facilitate faculty and student research on minority health issues.

Applicants must address all five legislative purposes. In addition, grants for eligible HBCUs as described in section 799(l)(A) and which have received a contract under section 788B of the Act (Advanced Financial Distress Assistance) for FY 1987 may also be used to develop a plan to achieve institutional improvements, including financial independence, to enable the school to support programs of excellence in health professions education for minority individuals, and to provide improved access to the

library and informational resources of the school.

Other Requirements: For Hispanic Centers of Excellence, the health professions schools must agree to give priority to carrying out the duties with respect to Hispanic individuals.

Regarding Native American Centers of Excellence, the health professions school must agree to:

1. Give priority to carrying out the duties with respect to Native Americans;
2. Establish a linkage with one or more public or nonprofit private institutions of higher education whose enrollment of students has traditionally included a significant number of Native Americans for purposes of identifying potential Native American health professions students of the institution who are interested in a health professions career and facilitating their educational preparation for entry into the health professions school; and
3. Make efforts to recruit Native American students, including those who have participated in the undergraduate program of the linkage school, and assist them in completing the educational requirements for a degree from the health professions school.

With respect to meeting these requirements, a grant for a Native American Center of Excellence may be made not only to a school of medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, or pharmacy that individually meets eligibility conditions but also to such school that has formed a *consortium* of schools that collectively meet conditions, without regard to whether the schools of the consortium individually meet the conditions. The consortium would be required to consist of the school seeking the grant and one or more schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, allied health, or public health. The schools of the consortium must have entered into an agreement for the allocation of the grant among the schools. Each of the schools must have agreed to expend the grant in accordance with requirements of this program. Each of the schools of the consortium must be part of the same parent institution of higher education as the school seeking the grant or be located not more than 50 miles from the school (the applicant).

To qualify as an "Other" Minority Health Professions Education Center of Excellence, a health professions school (*i.e.*, a school of medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, or pharmacy) must have an enrollment of underrepresented minorities above the national average for such enrollments of health

professions schools. (See definition for "A significant number of minority individuals enrolled in the school.")

Eligibility: Section 739 authorizes the Secretary to make grants to schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry and pharmacy for the purpose of assisting the schools in supporting programs of excellence in health professions education for Black, Hispanic and Native American individuals, as well as for HBCUs as described in section 799(l)(A) and which have received a contract under section 788B of the Act (Advanced Financial Distress Assistance) for FY 1987.

To qualify as a COE, a school is required to:

1. Have a significant number of minority individuals enrolled in the school, including individuals accepted for enrollment in the school (see definition for "A significant number of minority individuals enrolled in the school");
 2. Demonstrate that it has been effective in assisting minority students of the school to complete the program of education and receive the degree involved;
 3. Show that it has been effective in recruiting minority individuals to attend the school, including providing scholarships and other financial assistance to such individuals, and encouraging minority students of secondary educational institutions to attend the health professions school; and
 4. Demonstrate that it has made significant recruitment efforts to increase the number of minority individuals serving in faculty or administrative positions at the school.
- These entities must be located in a State.

Payments under grants for Centers of Excellence may not exceed 3 years, subject to annual approval by the Secretary, the availability of appropriations, and acceptable progress toward meeting originally stated objectives.

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

1. The degree to which the applicant can arrange to continue the proposed project beyond the Federally-funded project period;
2. The degree to which the proposed project meets the purposes described in the legislation;
3. The relationship of the objectives of the proposed project to the goals of the plan that will be developed;