

"Continuing Education" (CE) is any short-term, non-degree program offered by an institution of higher learning. Continuing Education focuses on increasing leadership skills of MCH health professionals; facilitating timely transfer and application of new information, research findings, and technology related to MCH; and updating and improving the knowledge and skills of health and related professionals in programs serving mothers and children, including children with special health care needs (CSHCN). As a result of the CE, professionals are more adequately prepared to deliver comprehensive services and to provide leadership in advancing the field to better serve mothers and children.

## 2. Special Concerns

In its administration of the MCH Services Block Grant, the MCHB places special emphasis on improving service delivery to women and children from racial and ethnic minority populations who have had limited access to accessible care. This means that SPRANS projects are expected to serve and appropriately involve in project activities individuals from the populations to be served, unless there are compelling programmatic or other justifications for not doing so. The MCHB's intent is to ensure that project interventions are responsive to the cultural and linguistic needs of special populations, that services are accessible to consumers, and that the broadest possible representation of culturally distinct and historically underrepresented groups is supported through programs and projects sponsored by the MCHB.

## 3. Project Review and Funding

Within the limit of funds determined by the Secretary to be available for the activities described in this announcement, the Secretary will review applications for funds under the specific project categories in section 4 below as competing applications and may award Federal funding for projects which will, in her judgment, best promote the purpose of title V of the Social Security Act, with special emphasis on improving service delivery to women and children from culturally distinct populations; best address achievement of Healthy Children 2000 objectives related to maternal, infant, child and adolescent health and service systems for children at risk of chronic and disabling conditions; and otherwise best promote improvements in maternal and child health.

### 3.1 Criteria for Review

The criteria which follow are used, as pertinent, to review and evaluate applications for awards under all SPRANS grants and cooperative agreement project categories announced in this notice. Further guidance in this regard is supplied in application guidance materials, which may specify variations in these criteria.

- The quality of the project plan or methodology.
- The need for the research or training.
- The extent to which the project will contribute to the advancement of maternal and child health and/or improvement of the health of children with special health care needs;
- The extent to which the project is responsive to policy concerns applicable to MCH grants and to program objectives, requirements, priorities and/or review criteria for specific project categories, as published in program announcements or guidance materials.
- The extent to which the estimated cost to the Government of the project is reasonable, considering the anticipated results.
- The extent to which the project personnel are well qualified by training and/or experience for their roles in the project and the applicant organization has adequate facilities and personnel.
- The extent to which, insofar as practicable, the proposed activities, if well executed, are capable of attaining project objectives.
- The strength of the project's—plans for evaluation.
- The extent to which the project will be integrated with the administration of the MCH Block Grant, State primary care plans, public health, and prevention programs, and other related programs in the respective State(s).
- The extent to which the application is responsive to the special concerns and program priorities specified in this notice.

### 3.2 Funding of Approved Applications

Final funding decisions for SPRANS research and training grants are the responsibility of the Director, MCHB. In considering scores for the ranking of approved applications for funding, preferences may be exercised for groups of applications; for example, new projects may be funded ahead of competing continuations, or vice versa. Within any category of approved projects, the score of an individual project may be favorably adjusted if the project addresses specific priorities

identified in this notice. In addition, special consideration in assigning scores may be given by reviewers to individual applications that address areas identified in this notice as special concerns.

## 4. Special Projects of Regional and National Significance

Three categories of SPRANS grants are discussed below: Research, Long Term Training, and Continuing Education:

### 4.1. Research Grants

- Application Deadlines: March 1 and August 1, 1995.
- Purpose: To encourage research in maternal and child health which has the potential for ready transfer of findings to health care delivery programs. Research grants may be made only to public or nonprofit institutions of higher learning and public or nonprofit private agencies and organizations engaged in research or in maternal and child health or programs for CSHCN.

Special consideration will be given to projects which address the factors and processes that lead to disparities in health status and use of services among minority and other disadvantaged groups as well as health promoting behaviors, quality outcome measures, and systems integration/reform.

- Grants/Amounts: Approximately \$1.0 million will be available to support up to 8 new or competing renewal research projects at an average of \$125,000 per award for one year. Project periods are generally 3 years but may be up to 5 years.
- Contact: For programmatic or technical information, contact Gontran Lamberty, Dr.P.H., telephone: 301 443-2190.

### 4.2. Long Term Training Grants

- Application Deadline: April 3, 1995.
- Purpose: Awards to institutions of higher learning to support and strengthen MCH programs through long term training of health professionals at the graduate and postgraduate levels, with a special focus on family-centered, community-based care. The programs are designed to develop leadership personnel to provide for comprehensive health, including health promotion and disease prevention, and related services to mothers and children; and to address special issues, such as HIV; injury; minority health concerns; and substance abuse. Training is provided to a wide range of health professionals who serve mothers and children.

Contact: For programmatic and technical information, contact Elizabeth