

substantial evidence that the project will add to the body of knowledge with regard to provision of quality male family planning and reproductive health information, education and services for males. Program funds may be used to support evaluation activities.

In addition to conducting an evaluation of their individual projects, successful applicants must be prepared to participate in a cross-site evaluation, to be supported by the OPA and conducted by an independent entity, to assess program efficiency and effectiveness across all projects funded under this announcement.

V. Application Review Information

Eligible grant applications will be reviewed by a multi-disciplinary panel of independent reviewers and assessed according to the following criteria:

(1) The applicant's presentation of a detailed evaluation plan, indicating an understanding of program evaluation methods and reflecting a practical and technically sound approach to assessing the project's achievement of program objectives, as well as the intent and ability to participate in a cross-cutting evaluation of all projects funded under this announcement (25 points);

(2) The capability of the applicant to provide family planning and reproductive health information, education and/or clinical services to males, as evidenced by the applicant's past and present history of providing a variety of services to males, such as social, health, recreational, educational, and/or vocational services (20 points);

(3) The applicant's presentation of the proposed project, including a clear description of need for the project; a theoretical rationale for the approach to be used, as well as its demonstrated effectiveness; measurable goals and

objectives; methods for achieving objectives; and statement of expected results (20 points);

(4) The feasibility of the proposed project and likelihood that the results will contribute to the body of knowledge regarding the delivery of acceptable, culturally competent, cost effective family planning and reproductive health information, education, and clinical services to males (15 points);

(5) The administrative and management capability of the applicant, including competency of the proposed staff in relation to the type of research proposed, the project period, and the adequacy of the applicant's resources for the project (10 points); and

(6) The capacity of the applicant to make rapid and effective use of grant assistance, including evidence of ability to modify program activities if indicated (10 points).

Final grant award decisions will be made by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs. In making these decisions, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs will take into account the extent to which grants approved for funding will provide an appropriate geographic distribution of resources, and will take into consideration:

(1) The scientific merit and significance of the proposed project, including the model to be used;

(2) The population(s) to be served;

(3) The usefulness for policymakers and service providers of the proposed project and the likelihood of its producing meaningful results and information that will contribute to the body of knowledge regarding male family planning and reproductive health information, education and services for males; and

(4) The reasonableness of the estimated cost to the government considering the anticipated results.

Awards will be made only to those organizations or agencies which have demonstrated the capability of providing the proposed services, and which have met all applicable requirements. However, efforts will be made to distribute awards across the ten PHS Regions.

VI. Award Administration Information

OPA does not release information about individual applications during the review process until final funding decisions have been made. When these decisions have been made, applicants will be notified by letter regarding the outcome of their applications. The official document notifying an applicant that an application has been approved and granted funding is the Notice of Grant Award, which specifies to the grantee the amount of money awarded, the purpose of the grant, the terms and conditions of the grant award, and the amount of funding, if any, to be contributed by the grantee to project costs.

VII. Agency Contacts

For assistance on administrative and budgetary requirements, Karen Campbell, OPHS Grants Management Office, (301) 594-0758;

For assistance with questions regarding program requirements, Susan B. Moskosky, Office of Family Planning/Office of Population Affairs, (301) 594-4008.

Dated: April 7, 2003.

Alma L. Golden,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03-9050 Filed 4-11-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4150-34-P