

2. Pilot and evaluate the curriculum; and
3. Incorporate the training into their required overall curriculum within two years.

Federal Involvement

Federal: Division of State, Community and Public Health, AHEC Branch staff will:

- Review all changes to the composition of all advisory committees and boards;
- Participate in an annual evaluation of the cooperative agreement program;
- Assist in planning and implementing project priorities by coordinating and facilitating the interchange technical and program information;
- Assist project staff in the development, compilation and dissemination of materials prepared by project personnel;
- Review for programmatic content all contracts and agreements among recipient medical or osteopathic schools, other health professional schools and community-based centers (unless such reviews are formally delegated to the recipient cooperating school); and
- Provide guidance concerning the content, structure and form of the annual progress report and final project report.

Funding Priorities and/or Preference

None.

Statutory Matching or Cost Sharing Requirement

None.

Administrative Special Consideration

Special consideration will be given to applicants who (a) develop new and innovative approaches to education and training using distance learning methodologies/telehealth, or (b) enhance or expand existing distance learning educational programs with the purpose of preparing health professionals and health professional students to deliver quality health care in medically underserved communities. A special consideration is another factor considered in making funding decisions that is neither a review criterion, preference, nor priority.

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of peer reviewers using the following criteria:

- (1) *Purpose, Need and Rationale*: The extent to which the purpose is consistent with the legislative purpose and is clearly described and the extent

to which the need for the proposed project is thoroughly documented;

- (2) *Project Effectiveness*: The extent to which potential effectiveness of the proposed project in carrying out the education purposes of the Bioterrorism Training and Curriculum Development Program is clearly described;

- (3) *Project Plan*: The extent to which the project plan is clearly articulated and specifies measurable outcome objectives which are attainable within the stated time frame;

- (4) *Linkages and Collaborative Efforts*: The degree to which the applicant describes a comprehensive coordinated multidisciplinary approach to the training of health professionals;

- (5) *Project Management*: The extent that the applicant identifies activities and outcomes that are related to the outcome objectives given the proposed level of staff, resources available, length of the project period and institutional eligibility; and

- (6) *Fiscal Plan*: The extent to which the fiscal plan describes the effective use of funds and resources to carry out the project.

Estimated Amount of Available Funds

It is estimated that \$26 million will be available for fiscal year 2003.

Estimated Number of Awards

It is estimated that the number of awards may vary for Continuing Education from 15–25.

It is estimated that the number of awards may vary for the Curricular Enhancement from 10–12.

Estimated Average Size of Each Award

It is estimated that the average size of each award for Continuing Education may range from \$900,000 to \$1,500,000.

It is estimated that the average size of each award for Curricular Enhancement may range from \$300,000 to \$400,000.

Estimated Project Period

Applications will be submitted for two years. The first budget period will be September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2004; the second budget period will be September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005, subject to the availability of funds and evaluation of recipient performance.

Application Requests, Availability, Deadline and Addresses

Application materials are available for downloading via the web at <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/grants/default.htm>.

Applicants may also request a hard copy of the application material by contacting the HRSA Grants Application Center, Grants Management Office, 901 Russell Avenue, Suite 450, Gaithersburg, MD

20879 or by calling (877) 477–2123 or by Fax at 1–877–477–2345. In order to be considered for competition, applications must be postmarked or submitted to the address listed above by the due date of June 16, 2003.

Applicants should request a legibly dated U.S. Postal postmark or obtain a legibly dated receipt from a commercial carrier or U.S. Postal Service. Private metered postmarks shall not be acceptable as proof of timely mailing. An application receipt will not be provided. Applications submitted after the deadline date will be returned to the applicant and not processed. Applicants should note that HRSA anticipates accepting grant applications online in the last quarter of the Fiscal Year (July through September). Please refer to the HRSA grants schedule at <http://www.hrsa.gov/grants.htm> for more information.

Projected Award Date: September 30, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lynn Rothberg Wegman, Division of State, Community and Public Health, Bureau of Health Professions, HRSA, Room 9–105, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857. Ms. Wegman's telephone number is 301–443–1648.

Additional Information: Technical Assistance Workshops will be conducted at the following locations: Atlanta, GA; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; Denver, CO; San Francisco, CA; and Washington, DC. Additional details, including the specific Dates for the workshops, may be obtained via the web at <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/grants/default.htm>. Attendance at the workshops is optional and at the expense of the participant. Registration is required and may be completed by contacting Karen L. Ellis at (301) 315–2806 and Maria Smith at (301) 315–2844 or by registering on line at <http://meetings.Z-techcorp.com/meetings>.

Paperwork Reduction Act: The Application for the Bioterrorism Training and Curriculum Development Program has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act. Should any data collection associated with the evaluation of this cooperative agreement fall under the purview of the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB clearance will be sought. The OMB clearance number is 00915–0060.

The program is not subject to the provision of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs (as implemented through 45 CFR part 100).