

funds in collaboration with two or more disciplines.

### Funding Preference

A funding preference is defined as the funding of a specific category or group of approved applications ahead of other categories or groups of applications. As provided in section 791(a) of the PHS Act, a preference will be given to any qualified applicant that meets the criteria for a "new program" under this Cooperative Agreement.

For the purposes of this Cooperative Agreement, all proposed CCE programs are eligible to be considered as new programs; however, applicants cannot automatically receive the preference. Preference will be given to those proposed CCE programs that request the preference and that meet at least four of the following criteria:

(1) The mission statement of the program identifies a specific purpose of this program as being the preparation of health professionals to serve underserved populations;

(2) The curriculum of the program includes content which will help to prepare practitioners to serve underserved populations;

(3) Substantial clinical training experience is required under the program in medically underserved communities;

(4) A minimum of 20% of the clinical faculty of the program spend at least 50% of their time providing or supervising care in medically underserved communities;

(5) The entire program or a substantial portion of the program is physically located in a medically underserved community;

(6) Student assistance, which is linked to service in medically underserved communities following graduation, is available to the students in the program; and

(7) The program provides a placement mechanism for deploying graduates to medically underserved communities.

This statutory general preference will only be applied to applications that rank above the 20th percentile of applications recommended for approval by the peer review group.

The term "medically underserved community (MUC)" means an urban or rural area or population that:

(a) Is eligible for designation under section 332 as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA);

(b) Is eligible to be served by a Migrant Health Center under section 330 of the PHS Act, a Community Health Center under section 330 of the Act, a grantee under section 330 of the Act (relating to homeless individuals),

or a grantee under section 330 of the Act (relating to residents of public housing);

(c) Is eligible for certification under section 1861(aa)(2) of the Social Security Act (relating to rural health clinics); or

(d) Is designated by a State Governor (in consultation with the medical community) as a shortage area or MUC. (Section 799B(6) of the PHS Act.).

### Allied Health Funding Priority

A "funding priority" is defined as the favorable adjustment of aggregate review scores of individually approved applications. A funding priority will be given to approved applicants who devote resources to educate and train allied health professionals in areas experiencing shortages in the disciplines of medical technology and cytotechnology.

To qualify for the priority, the applicant should satisfactorily demonstrate that this Cooperative Agreement includes the training of allied health professionals in areas experiencing shortages in the disciplines of medical technology and cytotechnology.

Applicants meeting the funding priority will receive an additional 5 points. Peer reviewers will determine which applications receive the funding priority.

### Special Considerations

A special consideration is the enhancement of priority scores by individual merit reviewers of approved applications, because the application addresses special areas of concern.

Title VII, section 747(c)(3) provides for a statutory special consideration to be given to projects that prepare practitioners to care for underserved populations and other high risk groups such as the elderly, individuals with HIV/AIDS, substance abusers, homeless and victims of domestic violence.

An administrative special consideration will be given to projects that propose approaches for enhancing current and/or developing new educational opportunities using distance learning methodologies, with the goal of improving access to primary health care for medically and/or dentally underserved communities and/or underserved populations or other high risk groups. The proposed project should focus on educational opportunities for trainees and not on providing clinical services.

### Statutory Matching or Cost Sharing Requirement

None.

### Review Criteria

The specific review criteria used to review and rank applications are included in the application guidance that will be provided to each potential applicant. Peer reviewers will evaluate applications based on: (1) The quality of the applicants' proposed geographic needs assessment, including addressing the needs of underserved populations and other high risk groups and the incorporation of distance learning methodologies; (2) the quality of the proposed curriculum, including evaluation of curriculum specific to geriatrics, oral health, and diabetes; (3) the applicants' overall management capabilities, including its ability to demonstrate strong partnerships with the U.S.-Associated Pacific Island jurisdictions and its knowledge of ongoing HRSA-funded activities in the Pacific Islands; and (4) the quality of the proposed outcome measures and dissemination strategies, including qualitative and quantitative evaluation plans and the project's impact at multiple levels (local, national, and international). Applicants should pay strict attention to addressing these criteria, as they are the basis upon which applications will be judged by the reviewers.

The following generic review criteria are also applicable to this Cooperative Agreement:

(a) That the estimated cost to the Government of the project is reasonable considering the level and complexity of activity and the anticipated results.

(b) That project personnel are well qualified by training and/or experience for the support sought, that project personnel understand the cultural differences, socioeconomic factors, and geographic issues that impact the population in the Pacific Basin, and that the applicant organization or the organization to provide training has adequate facilities and manpower.

(c) That insofar as practical, the proposed activities, if well executed, are capable of attaining project objectives.

(d) That the project objectives are capable of achieving the specific program objectives defined in the program announcement and the proposed results are measurable.

(e) That the method for evaluating proposed results includes criteria for determining the extent to which the program has achieved its stated objectives and the extent to which the accomplishment of objectives can be attributed to the program.

(f) That, insofar as practical, the proposed activities, when accomplished, are replicable, national