

insurance coverage to all uninsured; and will present a comprehensive description and justification for the activities proposed to be conducted with supplemental SPG grant funds. Activities may include, but are not limited to additional data collection, analysis of that data, use of the analyses to enhance, refine, and update an approach or approaches for covering all uninsured, and a refined strategy for implementing and funding that approach. The successful applicant will continue to work with all appropriate health-related State agencies, including the Medicaid agency, the budget office, and other relevant departments (*e.g.*, insurance, public health, human services, mental health and substance abuse, and aging). The State applicant should also demonstrate continued communication with the health committees in the State legislature about the proposal. Formal collaboration should continue to exist with private sector organizations (including both business and the health care provider communities), consumer groups, and researchers.

#### **Eligible Applicants**

All States which have previously received State Planning Grant funds are eligible to apply for supplemental funds to assist such States in continuing their data gathering, analysis and planning processes to enhance and refine existing plans. Only one agency or entity may apply per State and it must be a part of the State government. A letter from the Governor authorizing this entity or agency to apply for the supplemental funds should accompany the application, unless the request is from the entity which was awarded the original grant.

#### **Funding Criteria**

Review criteria that will be used to evaluate applications from States which have previously received State Planning Grant funds include the extent to which the application provides:

A detailed description of activities and results that have been accomplished with previously received SPG grant funds.

A detailed description of the activities proposed to be conducted with the supplemental funds and how these activities will enhance and build upon the activities already completed and as applicable, be integrated with the activities yet to be completed, with the previously received SPG grant funds.

A description of the anticipated results of these proposed tasks and how they will expand health insurance coverage options to the uninsured.

A description of the technical capacity, resources, and collaboration needed to successfully carry out the proposed activities and provide the required report to the Department.

An accountable management and budget plan with time lines, demonstrating readiness of the State government to conduct the proposed supplemental activities which will result in new or refined approaches to providing access to coverage and determine strategies for implementing and funding such approaches. States should provide an explanation of how they will contract for needed technical assistance, if necessary. For those States with existing State Planning grants, the integration of proposed work with work not yet completed is required.

A description of how the proposed supplemental activities will augment earlier efforts to the report to the Department.

#### **Report Contents**

The grant funding provided to States which have previously received SPG grant funds, will assist States to enhance and refine models for providing access to health insurance coverage for all citizens of the State. Each grantee State who receives supplemental SPG grant funds, will be required to prepare an addendum report to the Department that describes the results of the supplemental activities and how these activities have augmented earlier efforts.

#### **Use of Grant Funds**

Funding provided through this program may not be used to substitute for or duplicate funds currently supporting similar activities. In addition, grant funds may not be used to support construction, renovation or modernization costs. However, grant funds may support costs such as project staff salaries, consultants, project-related travel, project evaluation, limited equipment and software purchases or leases, and coordinating project-related meetings.

#### **Expected Results**

The implementation of supplemental State Planning grant funds is expected to result in the further development of a plan that the State might subsequently implement to provide health insurance coverage to all citizens of the State. In addition, the grantee States will provide information about data collection activities, partnerships, and options that other States may draw from in their efforts to expand health insurance coverage.

### **State Planning Grants for States Which Have Never Received SPG Grant Funds**

#### **Program Purpose**

The purpose of SPG is to have each new grantee State develop a plan or propose options that would ensure every citizen in that State access to affordable health insurance benefits similar in scope to the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan, Medicaid, benefits offered to State employees or other similar quality benchmarks. Not only will the grantee State benefit from its analysis, but by submitting a summary of this analysis and proposed plan at the end of the grant period in a report to the Department, other States may learn about successful or innovative ways to provide access to coverage. In addition, HHS will have the opportunity to review these reports and gain insight into effective methods of supporting such endeavors.

#### **Program Goal**

The overarching SPG goal is to encourage States to provide access to health insurance coverage to all uninsured citizens by providing the resources needed to develop successful plans and to provide a number of data collection and planning strategies, along with viable insurance expansion options to consider. The immediate goal of SPG is to assist States as they collect and analyze data, develop coverage options or design programs that provide health insurance coverage to all uninsured citizens in the State through expanded State, Federal, and private partnerships.

#### **Program Description**

The approximately \$15 million in available funding for all SPG grant activities has been appropriated under the FY 2003 Labor-HHS Appropriations Act. The HRSA, Office of Special Programs, State Planning Grants Program, will oversee the program. Up to 10 new awards are anticipated which will vary in size, with a grant award ranging from \$800,000 up to \$1.2 million. The total amount of funds for new grants is approximately \$10.0 million.

During FY 2003, SPG will support one-year planning grants to States to (1) collect and analyze data that describe the characteristics of their uninsured and assist in the design of approaches to provide access to affordable coverage, (2) design a program that would provide all uninsured with access to insurance benefits similar in care to State employee coverage, Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan, Medicaid or other similar quality benchmarks, through a