

Authority: Section 402 of the Social Security Act Amendments of 1967 (42 U.S.C. 1395b1).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.779, Health Care Financing Research, Demonstrations and Evaluations)

Dated: May 10, 2003.

Thomas A. Scully,

Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. 03-13829 Filed 5-29-03; 12:09 pm]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Grants for Policy-Oriented Rural Health Services Research; Grant Announcement Number HRSA-03-091

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), HHS.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds.

SUMMARY: The Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) announces that approximately \$900,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 funds are available for competitive grants for policy-oriented rural health services research. Individual research projects that address rural health services will be funded under this announcement. This program is authorized by Section 301 of the Public Health Service Act. Eligibility is open to public, private, and non-profit—including faith-based and community-based—organizations. Further information is provided in the Eligibility Requirements section. Grant awards will be limited to \$150,000 per grantee. It is anticipated that six (6) awards will be made. The project period is twelve months.

APPLICATION DEADLINES: Applications must be received by 4 p.m. Eastern Time on July 7, 2003. Completed applications must be sent to HRSA Grants Application Center (GAC), 901 Russell Avenue, Suite 450, Gaithersburg, MD 20879.

Applications shall be considered as meeting the deadline if they are either (1) received on or before the deadline date; or (2) postmarked on or before the deadline date and received in time for orderly processing. Applicants must obtain a legibly dated receipt from a commercial carrier or the U.S. Postal Service in lieu of a postmark. Private metered postmarks are not acceptable as proof of timely mailing. Late applications will not be reviewed. Applicants will receive a confirmation

of receipt notice from the HRSA Grants Application Center.

The standard application form and general instructions for completing applications (Form PHS 398) have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget. To receive an application kit, contact the HRSA Grants Application Center toll-free at 1-877-477-2123 or write them at HRSA Grants Application Center, 901 Russell Avenue, Suite 450, Gaithersburg, MD 20879. To order an application kit for this program, you must identify the program citing the following program name, catalogue of federal domestic assistance number, and announcement number: Grant Program for Policy-Oriented Rural Health Services Research, Catalogue Of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 93.155, Grant Announcement Number: HRSA-03-091.

On-line grant application: 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.

Letter of intent: In order to allow the ORHP to plan for the objective review process, applicants are requested to notify the ORHP in writing of their intent to apply. This notification is not binding, but serves to inform the ORHP of anticipated numbers of applications that may be submitted. Do not fax notification. Notification is requested no later than June 11, 2003. The address for notification is: Emily Costich, Policy-Oriented Rural Health Services Research Program, Office of Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration, Room 9A-55, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Information or technical assistance regarding business, budget, or financial issues should be directed to the Division of Grants Management Operations, Health Resources and Services Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 7-89, Rockville, Maryland 20857, 301-443-2280. Specific contacts are:

Janice M. Gordon, Grants Management Officer, Division of Grants Management Operations, Telephone: 301-443-2385, E-mail: jgordon@hrsa.gov.

Darren S. Buckner, Grants Management Specialist, Division of Grants Management Operations, Telephone: 301-443-1913, E-mail: dbuckner@hrsa.gov.

Requests for technical or programmatic information on this

announcement should be directed to Emily Costich, Office of Rural Health Policy, Room 9A-55, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, (301) 443-0502, E-mail: ecostich@hrsa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Policy-oriented rural health services research is useful because it informs policy-makers concerned with rural health issues and it enhances knowledge about rural health and rural health services. In addition, rural health services research addresses critical concerns facing rural communities in their quest to secure adequate, affordable, high quality health services. Research findings are useful to inform a wide audience of national, state, and local decision-makers about rural health issues. Research findings have been instrumental in bridging gaps between policy and program needs.

Research Priorities: These grants are designed to provide support both for entities established in the rural health services research field as well as those entering this field. These grants are also intended to advance specific areas of rural health services research in which a limited amount of research exists. To determine what specific rural health services research is in progress in the areas of applicant interest, query the Database for Rural Health Research in Progress at: <http://www.rural-health.org>. This grant program will support individual research projects and excludes clinical/biomedical research and the expenditure of funds for delivery of services.

Research Areas

Applications are sought for the research areas specified below, either singly or in combination. These areas are not listed in any priority order. Applications falling outside these research areas may be returned at the discretion of the Office of Rural Health Policy as being non-responsive.

- (1) Mental Health
- (2) Substance Abuse
- (3) Oral Health
- (4) American Indian/Alaska Native/
Native Hawai'ian Health Issues
- (5) Integration of Native and Non-Native
Health Care
- (6) Special Populations—Children,
Women, Homeless, Elderly
- (7) Chronic Disease (e.g., Asthma and
Diabetes)
- (8) Bioterrorism Preparedness
- (9) Frontier Issues
- (10) Medicaid
- (11) S-CHIP
- (12) End of Life Care
- (13) Continuum of Care
- (14) Public Health Issues