

Background

From the early 1970s through the year 2000, the Office of Family Planning in the Office of Population Affairs funded certificate family planning/women's health nurse practitioner training programs to prepare registered professional nurses to serve the clinical needs of clients in title X family planning services projects. Changes in state practice requirements and the health care system, as well as the increasing availability of more broadly prepared providers, under-utilization of the title X-supported nurse practitioner training programs, and the growing diversity of populations served in title X family planning services projects (including an increasing number of males) prompted a reassessment of the need for the certificate nurse practitioner training program. This reassessment prompted the transition depicted in the March 23, 1999, **Federal Register** notice (64 FR 14080) requesting applications for Family Planning Nurse Practitioner and Specialty Training grants. This announcement phased-out full-course certificate nurse practitioner training, and replaced it with targeted specialty training in family planning and reproductive health for credentialed advanced practice nurses, physician's assistants, and physicians. These projects have been in operation for three years.

Title X family planning services project grantees, training providers, and Federal title X staff have recently identified a need to also provide continuing education training for registered professional nurses working in family planning projects who are not advanced practice nurses. This component has been incorporated into this solicitation for applications, but may not include training for procedures or practices that are beyond the scope of nursing practice, as delineated by the Nurse Practice Act for a specific state.

Purpose of the Grant

The purpose of the clinical specialty training program is to ensure that health care practitioners and registered professional nurses working in Title X family planning services projects have the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to provide effective, high quality clinical family planning services.

The training program funded under this announcement will be responsible for design and delivery of specialty training for health care practitioners and registered professional nurses which will enhance knowledge, skills, and abilities in the provision of family

planning and related clinical preventive health services in title X-funded projects. The grantee funded under this announcement will be expected to conduct two types of training activities: (1) Clinical specialty training course(s) specific to the provision of clinical family planning and related clinical preventive health services specifically designed for health care practitioners in title X family planning services projects; and (2) continuing education content relevant to the provision of family planning and related clinical preventive health services. This continuing education content may be offered to either registered professional nurses or health care practitioners working in title X family planning services projects. Training provided with these grant funds is not intended to substitute for formal nurse practitioner education, but rather to enhance the ability of multiple levels of clinical providers to deliver quality family planning and related clinical preventive health services within the scope of applicable State practice acts or laws. Training content and design should be adjusted to the skill and practice role of the target audience as well as the scope of practice as delineated in applicable State practice acts or laws.

Content of specialty training may vary depending on the needs of the service providers in the applicable regions. However, all course offerings should promote and improve family planning and related preventive health knowledge and clinical skills as they relate to the provision of family planning services in title X-funded projects. Clinical specialty training course(s) are available only to health care practitioners as defined in this announcement. Registered professional nurses, as defined in this announcement, may participate only in continuing education offerings that are not intended to train on procedures or practices that are appropriate to the role of the health care practitioner. Continuing education credits must be available for all training activities provided under this announcement.

The content and number of offerings should be based on an assessment of the need of the title X family planning service providers in the applicable regions. Offerings should be designed and delivered in a manner appropriate to the content and professional preparation of the participants. The on-site didactic and supervised clinical components of specialty course offerings for health care practitioners should provide adequate time for instruction and interaction with faculty, but should not exceed a total of three

weeks per course. Distance learning components should provide an opportunity for interaction with faculty if needed, and reasonable time for completion of the offering(s).

II. Award Information

OPA intends to make available approximately \$200,000–\$300,000 per year for up to two years to support one clinical specialty training program to provide specialty training to health care practitioners and registered professional nurses working in title X family planning services projects in PHS Regions VI–X. The area to be served by this training program includes: Region VI (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma); Region VII (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska); Region VIII (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming); Region IX (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau and Guam); Region X (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington). The grant will be funded in annual increments (budget periods) and may be approved for a project period of up to two years. A match of non-Federal funds will not be required. Funding for all budget periods beyond the first year of the grant is contingent upon the availability of funds, satisfactory progress on the project, and adequate stewardship of Federal funds.

III. Eligibility Information

Any public or nonprofit private entity located in a State (which includes one of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands) is eligible to apply for a grant under this announcement. Faith-based organizations are eligible to apply for these title X family planning clinical specialty training grants.

If the successful applicant is not physically located within one of the applicable regions, a major training facility of the organization must be located within the cluster of regions the applicant will serve.

An award will be made only to that organization or agency which has met all applicable requirements and which demonstrates the capability of providing the proposed services.