

- An older sibling who is an adolescent parent.
- Community, neighborhood, school, faith-based organizations and other social institutions.

## II. Award Information

The OPA intends to make available approximately \$750,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 to support an estimated 3 to 4 new research grants, up to a maximum of \$250,000 each—including both direct and indirect costs. Section 2008(a)(3) of the Public Health Service Act stipulates that a grant for any one year period may not exceed \$100,000 for the direct costs of conducting research activities. However, this limitation may be waived if we determine that exceptional circumstances warrant such waiver and that the project will have national impact. (Although section 2008(a)(3) also allows for waiver of this limitation where limited demonstration projects are conducted in order to provide data for research, the OPA does not intend to fund such projects under this announcement.) OPA intends to fund research under this announcement only if it will have national impact. Therefore, applications will be reviewed for research that will have national impact and, in cases where direct costs exceed the \$100,000 limit, whether the applicant has established that those costs constitute an exceptional circumstance because they are necessary to carry out the research project.

Grants will be funded in annual increments (budget periods) and may be funded for a project period of up to three years. A match of non-Federal funds will not be required. Funding for all approved budget periods beyond the first year is contingent upon the availability of funds, satisfactory progress on the project, and adequate stewardship of Federal funds.

The OPA, subject to the availability of funds, intends to convert this Request for Applications (RFA) to a Standing Announcement, with one annual application receipt date of January 15, beginning in FY 2004.

## III. Eligibility Information

Any public agency or private non-profit or for-profit organization or institution of higher education which may be located in any State, the District of Columbia, or any United States territory, commonwealth, or possession, is eligible to apply for a grant under this announcement. Faith-based organizations are eligible to apply for these Adolescent Family Life research grants.

## IV. Application and Submission Information

Applications must be submitted on the research application form PHS 398 (revised 5/01) available in the business or grants and contracts office at most academic and research institutions; this form is also available online at: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm>.

Applicants are encouraged to read all PHS Form 398 instructions prior to preparing an application in response to this announcement.

As explained in the form PHS 398 instructions, the RFA label, available in the PHS 398 application form, must be stapled to the bottom of the face page of the application and must display the RFA title. In addition, the RFA title must be typed on line 2 of the face page of the application form and the YES box must be marked.

To receive consideration, applications must be received by the Center for Scientific Review, NIH, by the deadline listed in the **DATES** section of this announcement, July 22, 2003. Applications will be considered as meeting the deadline if they are postmarked on or before the deadline date and are received in time for orderly processing. A legibly dated receipt from a commercial carrier or U.S. Postal Service will be accepted in lieu of a postmark. Private metered postmarks will not be accepted as proof of timely mailing. Applications meeting the eligibility criteria, application content criteria and deadline will be notified via the PHS-3038-1, Application Receipt Record. Applications that do not meet the deadline will not be accepted for review, and will be returned. Applications sent via facsimile or by electronic mail will not be accepted for review.

Prospective applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent that includes a descriptive title of the proposed research, the name, address, and telephone number of the Principal Investigator, and the title of this RFA. Although a letter of intent is not required, is not binding, and does not enter into the review of a subsequent application, the information that it contains allows OPA staff to estimate the potential review workload and plan the review.

The letter of intent should be sent to Eugenia Eckard, at the address listed under the "Agency Contacts" section below, by June 23, 2003.

### Review Under Executive Order 12372

This program is not subject to the review requirements of Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

## Program Requirements/Application Content

This notice seeks applications for applied research addressing Adolescent Family Life program goals. Applications should include the following:

- (1) A well-organized statement of the problem to be addressed;
- (2) A detailed description of the research design;
- (3) The conceptual framework within which the design has been developed;
- (4) The methodology to be employed;
- (5) The evidence upon which the analysis will rely; and
- (6) The manner in which the evidence will be analyzed.

Applications should also clearly address how findings from the proposed study will have direct application for programs designed to prevent premarital adolescent sexual activity and promote adolescent and family health and well being.

## V. Application Review Information

Eligible applications in response to this announcement will be reviewed, in competition with other submitted applications, by a panel of independent peer reviewers and assessed according to the following criteria:

- (1) *Scientific Merit*. Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed and appropriate to the goals of the project? (25 points)
- (2) *Significance*. Will a scientific advance result if the project is carried out? Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches, or methods? (25 points)
- (3) *Feasibility and Likelihood of Producing Meaningful Results*. Are the plans for organizing and carrying out the project, including the responsibilities of key staff, the time line, and the proposed project period, adequately specified and appropriate? (20 points)
- (4) *Competency of Staff*. Are the principal investigator, and other key research staff, appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this project? (10 points)
- (5) *Adequacy of Facilities and Resources*. Are the facilities and resources of the applicant institution and other study sites adequate? (10 points)
- (6) *Adequacy of Budget*. Is the budget reasonable and adequate in relation to the proposed project? (10 points)

Each of these criteria will be addressed and considered by the reviewers in assigning the overall score. Final grant award decisions will be made by the Deputy Assistant Secretary