

income" levels to determine eligibility for program participation. The Department periodically publishes in the **Federal Register** low-income levels used to determine eligibility for grants and cooperative agreements to institutions providing training for (1) disadvantaged individuals, (2) individuals from a disadvantaged background, or (3) individuals from "low-income" families.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice announces increase in income levels intended for use in determining eligibility for participation in the following programs:

Advanced Education Nursing (section 811)  
 Allied Health Special Projects (section 755)  
 Nurse Education, Practice and Retention (section 831)  
 Dental Public Health (section 768)  
 Faculty Loan Repayment and Minority Faculty Fellowship Program (section 738)  
 General and Pediatric Dentistry (section 747)  
 Health Administration Traineeships and Special Projects (section 769)  
 Health Careers Opportunity Program (section 739)  
 Loans For Disadvantaged Students (section 724)  
 Scholarships For Disadvantaged Students (section 737)  
 Physician Assistant Training (section 747)  
 Primary Care Residency Training (section 747)  
 Public Health Traineeships (section 767)  
 Quentin N. Burdick Program for Rural Interdisciplinary Training (section 754)  
 Residency Training in Preventive Medicine (section 768)  
 Public Health Training Centers (section 766)  
 Nursing Workforce Diversity (section 821)

These programs generally award grants to accredited schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, public health, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, pharmacy, allied health, podiatric medicine, nursing, chiropractic, public or private nonprofit schools which offer graduate programs in behavioral health and mental health practice, and other public or private nonprofit health or education entities to assist the disadvantaged to enter and graduate from health professions and nursing schools. Some programs provide for the repayment of health professions or nursing education loans for disadvantaged students.

### Low-Income Levels

The Department's poverty guidelines which were published in the **Federal Register** on Friday, February 7, 2003 (68 FR 6456), are based on poverty thresholds published by the U.S. Census Bureau, adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index. HRSA is defining a "low-income family" as one with an annual income that is below 200 percent of the Department's poverty guidelines. The Secretary annually adjusts the low-income levels based on the Department's poverty guideline and makes them available to persons responsible for administering the applicable programs. The following income figures will be used for health professions and nursing grant programs funded in FY 2004.

Size of parent's family <sup>1</sup>	Income <sup>2</sup> level
1 .....	\$17,960
2 .....	24,240
3 .....	30,520
4 .....	36,800
5 .....	43,080
6 .....	49,360
7 .....	55,640
8 .....	61,920

1. Includes only dependents on Federal income tax forms.

2. Adjusted gross income for calendar year 2002.

Dated: July 29, 2003.

**Elizabeth M. Duke,**

*Administrator.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Health Resources and Services Administration

#### Supporting Networks of HIV Care Project Cooperative Agreements (SNHC), Program Announcement HRSA 03-102, CFDA # 93.145B

**AGENCY:** Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of funds.

**SUMMARY:** The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2003 Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funds allocated from the Department of Health and Human Services General Management Fund to continue the Supporting Networks of HIV Care (SNHC) Project. The total funding available for the SNHC Project is approximately \$2.3 million. HRSA will award two cooperative agreements

to two separate organizations to implement the SNHC Project in collaboration with the HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau (HRSA/HAB). The purpose of this announcement is to request Letters of Intent to Apply and applications for these two cooperative agreements. HRSA is requesting Letters of Intent to Apply in order to estimate the number of applications it may receive and thereby plan appropriately for the timely award of these funds. Letters of Intent to Apply are not required to submit an application and they are not binding.

**Background:** The goal of the SNHC Project is to assist eligible organizations, including small to moderately sized non-profit organizations and faith- and community-based organizations (F/CBO), not currently directly funded by HRSA/HAB for HIV/AIDS service delivery in their efforts to develop, improve, and expand comprehensive HIV primary care, treatment and support service delivery in racial/ethnic minority communities most severely impacted by HIV/AIDS. For the purpose of this project, "communities" refer to both groups of people (*i.e.*, African Americans, substance abusers, men who have sex with men) and geographic areas (*i.e.*, Kansas City, MO; Navajo Territory; Appalachia). The term "severely impacted by HIV/AIDS" is defined as having HIV or AIDS incidence and prevalence rates above the national average within a particular group of people or geographic area. The desired outcome of the SNHC Project is to increase the availability, accessibility, and quality of HIV/AIDS-related services in communities most severely impacted by the disease.

Organizations funded to implement the SNHC Project will work with HRSA/HAB to achieve this goal and outcome by: (1) Identifying and outreaching to small to moderately sized non-profit organizations, including F/CBOs; (2) assessing each eligible organization's commitment and readiness to provide quality HIV primary care, treatment or support services to severely impacted communities; and (3) providing individualized long-term technical assistance designed to help each organization obtain the information, skills, and other resources needed to develop, improve or expand its infrastructure and capabilities. Organizations funded to implement the SNHC Project will respond to the needs of eligible organizations through the development and provision of on-site technical assistance, regional intensive skills building workshops, instructional documents, referrals to local