

announcement code to order application materials.

Project Period

The project period is the total time for which support of a discretionary project has been programmatically approved. The project period usually consists of a series of budget periods of one-year duration. Once approved through initial review, continuation of each successive budget period is subject to satisfactory performance, availability of funds, and program priorities.

Review Criteria

The following are generic review criteria applicable to HRSA programs:

(1) *Need*—The extent to which the application describes the problem and associated contributing factors to the problem.

(2) *Response*—The extent to which the proposed project responds to the "Purpose" included in the program description. The clarity of the proposed goals and objectives and their relationship to the identified project. The extent to which the activities (scientific or other) described in the application are capable of addressing the problem and attaining the project objectives.

(3) *Evaluative Measures*—The effectiveness of the method proposed to monitor and evaluate the project results. Evaluative measures must be able to assess (1) to what extent the program objectives have been met and (2) to what extent these can be attributed to the project.

(4) *Impact*—The extent and effectiveness of plans for dissemination of project results, and/or the extent to which project results may be national in scope and/or the degree to which a community is impacted by delivery of health services, and/or the degree to which the project activities are replicable, and/or the sustainability of the program beyond Federal funding.

(5) *Resources/Capabilities*—The extent to which project personnel are qualified by training and/or experience to implement and carry out the project. The capabilities of the applicant organization, and quality and availability of facilities and personnel to fulfill the needs and requirements of the proposed project. For competing continuations, past performance will also be considered.

(6) *Support Requested*—The reasonableness of the proposed budget in relation to the objectives, the complexity of the activities, and the anticipated results.

(7) *Specific Program Criteria*—Additional specific program criteria, if

any, are included in the program description and in the individual guidance material provided with the application kit. The specific review criteria used to review and rank applications are included in the individual guidance material provided with the application kits. Applicants should pay strict attention to addressing these criteria, as they are the basis upon which the reviewers will judge their applications.

Technical Assistance

A contact person is listed for each program and his/her e-mail address and telephone number provided. Some programs have scheduled workshops and conference calls. If you have questions concerning individual programs or the availability of technical assistance, please contact the person listed. Also check your application materials and the HRSA Web site at <http://www.hrsa.gov/> for the latest technical assistance information.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where do I submit grant applications?

The address for submitting your grant application will be shown in the guidance document included in the application kit.

2. How do I learn more about a particular grant program?

If you want to know more about a program before you request an application kit, an e-mail/telephone contact is listed. This contact person can provide information concerning the specific program's purpose, scope and goals, and eligibility criteria. Usually, you will be encouraged to request the application kit so that you will have clear, comprehensive, and accurate information available to you. When requesting application materials, you must state the program announcement number, the program code and title of the program. The application kit lists telephone numbers for a program expert and a grants management specialist who will provide information about your program of interest if you are unable to find the information within the written materials provided.

In general, the program contact person provides information about the specific grant offering and its purpose, and the grants management specialist provides information about the grant mechanism and business matters, though their responsibilities often overlap.

Information specialists at the toll-free number provide only basic information and administer mailings.

3. The dates listed in the HRSA Preview and the dates in the application

kit do not agree. How do I know which is correct?

HRSA Preview dates for application kit availability and application receipt deadlines are based upon the best known information at the time of publication, often nine months in advance of the competitive cycle. Occasionally, the grant cycle does not begin as projected and dates must be adjusted. The deadline date stated in your application kit is generally correct. If the application kit has been made available and subsequently the date changes, notification of the change will be mailed to known recipients of the application kit, and also posted on the HRSA home page.

4. Are programs announced in the HRSA Preview ever cancelled?

Infrequently, announced programs may be withdrawn from competition. If this occurs, a cancellation notice will be provided through the HRSA Preview at the HRSA homepage at <http://www.hrsa.dhhs.gov>. If practicable, an attempt will be made to notify those who have requested a kit for the cancelled program by mail.

HRSA Program Competitions

Health Professions Programs

Note: Programs listed with an asterisk (*) are not included in the President's budget for FY 2004. They are included for planning purposes only. Potential applicants should consider these announcements provisional until final Congressional action on appropriations is taken.

HRSA-04-004 Centers of Excellence (COES) *

CFDA: 93.157.

Legislative Authority: Public Health Service Act, Title VII, Section 736, 42 U.S.C. 293.

Purpose: The goal of the Centers of Excellence (COE) is to assist eligible schools in supporting programs of excellence in health professions education for underrepresented minority individuals. The grantee is required to use the funds awarded: (1) To establish, strengthen, or expand programs to enhance the academic performance of the underrepresented minority students attending the school; (2) to improve the capacity of such schools to train, recruit, and retain underrepresented minority faculty including the payment of stipends and fellowships; (3) to carry out activities to improve the information resources, clinical education, curricula, and cultural competence of the graduates of the schools as it relates to minority health issues; (4) to facilitate faculty and student research on health issues,