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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Program Announcement 03036]

Grants for Dissertation Awards for Doctoral Candidates for Violence-Related Injury Prevention Research in Minority Communities; Notice of Availability of Funds

A. Authority and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number

This program is authorized under section 301(a) [42 U.S.C. 241(a)] of the Public Health Service Act and section 391 (a) [42 U.S.C. 280b(a)] of the Public Service Health Act, as amended. The catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number is 93.136.

B. Purpose

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2003 funds for a grant program for Dissertation Awards for Doctoral Candidates for Violence-Related Injury Prevention Research in Minority Communities. This program addresses the "Healthy People 2010" focus area of Injury and Violence Prevention.

The purposes of the program are to:

1. Solicit research applications that address the priorities reflected under the "Programmatic Requirements."
2. Build the scientific base for the prevention and control of injuries, disabilities, and deaths disproportionately experienced in minority communities.
3. Encourage doctoral candidates from a wide spectrum of disciplines, including, epidemiology, medicine, biostatistics, public health, law and criminal justice, behavioral and social sciences, to perform research in order to prevent and control injuries more effectively.
4. Assist students in the completion of their dissertation research on a violence-related topic.
5. Encourage investigators to build research careers related to the prevention of violence-related injuries, disabilities, and deaths in minority communities.

A dissertation represents the most extensive research experience

formulated and carried out by a doctoral candidate, with the advice and guidance of a mentor (the chair or another member of the dissertation committee). Dissertation research involves a major investment of the doctoral student's time, energy, and interest and its substance is often the basis for launching a research career. This research initiative is aimed at providing students with assistance to complete their dissertation research on a violence-related topic and, thereby, increasing representation of junior investigators in violence-related injury research.

Deaths and injuries associated with interpersonal violence and suicidal behavior are a major public health problem in the United States and around the world. In 1999, more than 46,000 people died from homicide and suicide in the United States. Among 15 to 24 year olds, homicide ranked as the second and the third leading causes of death. Violent deaths are the most visible consequence of violent behavior in our society. Morbidity associated with physical and emotional injuries and disabilities resulting from violence, however, also constitutes an enormous public health problem. For every homicide that occurs each year there are more than 100 non-fatal injuries resulting from interpersonal violence. For every completed suicide it is estimated that there are 20 to 25 suicide attempts. The mortality and morbidity associated with violence are associated with a variety of types of violence including child mistreatment, youth violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, elder abuse, and self-directed violence or suicidal behavior.

Violence has a disproportionate impact on racial and ethnic minorities. In 1999, homicide was the leading cause of death for African Americans and the second leading cause of death for Hispanics between the ages of 15 and 34. Suicide was the second leading cause of death for American Indians and Alaskan Natives and Asian and Pacific islanders 15 to 34 years of age. It is important to note that existing research indicates that race or ethnicity, per se, is not a risk factor for violent victimization or a cause of violent behavior. Rather, racial or ethnic status is associated with many other factors that do influence the risk of becoming a victim or behaving violently. Nevertheless, racial and ethnic minorities in the United States are at high risk for both violent victimization and perpetration. A better understanding of the factors that contribute to this vulnerability or protection from such risk is important to furthering effective violence prevention

programs that address racial and ethnic minorities.

There is a critical need for highly qualified scientists to carry out research on violence that can help in the development, implementation, and evaluation of effective violence prevention programs. In particular, scientists are needed who bring an understanding and sensitivity to the problems of violence as they affect minority communities. The purpose of this extramural research training grant program is to attract young scientists to the field of violence prevention by encouraging doctoral candidates from a variety of disciplines to conduct violence prevention research and hopefully carry this focus on throughout their careers. The number of individuals who are members of minority groups and who are engaged in violence-related injury prevention research is currently small. This research program should also attract young minority scientists to the field of violence research.

Measurable outcomes of the program will be in alignment with the following performance goal for the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC): Develop new or improved approaches for preventing and controlling death and disability due to injuries.

C. Eligible Applicants

Assistance will be provided to any United States public or private institution. The institution must support an accredited doctoral level training program. The performance site must be domestic.

Applicants must be students in good standing enrolled in an accredited doctoral degree program. The applicant must have the authority and responsibility to carry out the proposed project. Applicants must be conducting or intending to conduct research in one of the areas described under the "Research Objectives" in the Program Requirement's section of this announcement. To receive this funding, applicants must have successfully defended their dissertation proposal. This must be verified in a letter of certification from the mentor (the chair or another member of the dissertation committee). CDC requests that, if available, the letter of certification be submitted with the grant application, or before the negotiation and award.

Applications that are incomplete or non-responsive to the below requirements will be returned to the applicant without further consideration. The following are applicant requirements: