

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****Office of Public Health and Science;  
Announcement of Availability of Funds  
for Family Planning Nurse Practitioner  
and Specialty Training Program**

**AGENCY:** Office of Population Affairs,  
OPHS, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Family Planning (OFT) of the Office of Population Affairs requests applications for grants under the Family Planning Service Training Program authorized under section 1003 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act. Funds are available to train health care practitioners in order to maintain the high level of performance of family planning service projects funded under Title X of the PHS Act. The training programs to be funded will provide skill-based knowledge for registered professional nurses, qualified nurse practitioners, physicians assistants, Doctors of Medicine, and Doctors of Osteopathy employed in Title X clinics, and will enable Title X service providers to improve the delivery of family planning services to persons from low-income families and other persons desiring such services.

**DATES:** To receive consideration, applications must be received by the Office of Grants Management, Office of Population Affairs no later than May 24, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Application kits may be obtained from and applications must be submitted to: Grants Management Office, Office of Population Affairs, 4350 East-West Highway, Suite 200 West, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** *Program Requirements:* Ms. Susan Moskosky, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Family Planning, at (301) 594-4008.

*Administrative and Budgetary Requirements:* Office of Grants Management, Office of Population Affairs, at (301) 594-4012.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title X of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 300, *et seq.*, authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for projects to provide training for family planning services personnel. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 93.260). This notice announces the availability of approximately \$1,800,000 in funding and solicits applications for grants for two training projects, each of which will serve states in five U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regions, as described below.

**Program Background**

Title X of the PHS Act, enacted by Pub. L. 91-572, authorizes grants for projects to provide family planning services to persons from low-income families and others. Section 1001 of the Act, as amended, authorizes grants to "assist in the establishment and operation of voluntary family planning projects which shall offer a broad range of acceptable and effective family planning methods and services (including natural family planning methods, infertility services, and services for adolescents)." Section 1003 of the Act, as amended, authorizes the Secretary to make grants to entities to provide the training for personnel to carry out the family planning services program. The regulations set out at 42 CFR, part 59, subpart C, govern grants for family planning services training. Prospective applicants should refer to the regulations in their entirety.

The Office of Family Planning in the Office of Population Affairs, through the Title X program, has funded certificate nurse practitioner programs since the early 1970s to prepare registered professional nurses to serve the clinical needs of clients in Title X agencies. More than 5,000 family planning and women's health nurse practitioners have been prepared in the Title X-supported nurse practitioner training since that time. Many changes are occurring, however, that are having an impact on the type of training that will be needed for nurse practitioners and other clinical providers in the Title X delivery system, both now and in the future.

While it is recognized that an estimated 80 percent of the clinicians currently providing services in Title X clinics are certificate prepared women's health nurse practitioners, there has been a precipitous and sustained decline in the number of applicants for Title X nurse practitioner training over the past five years. In the past two years, several of the Title X-supported nurse practitioner training programs have canceled classes due to an insufficient number of applicants.

During this same time period, only one of the five Title X-supported nurse practitioner training programs has been able to recruit the number of trainees to which they committed in the applications for funding. This decline in the number of applicants and trainees has resulted in a dramatic increase in the average cost per student to the Title X program.

A majority of the states (26) currently require a masters degree for nurse practitioner practice or for prescriptive authority. Beginning January 1, 2007, a

masters degree in the specialty area will be required for nurse practitioners to be eligible for the women's health nurse practitioner certification examination. The change in the certification eligibility requirement will mean that certificate training of women's health nurse practitioners will no longer be a viable option. Compounding these factors are the changes occurring within the health care delivery system and the increasing complexity of reproductive health and other health issues requiring a broader understanding of related health complications (e.g., hypertension, diabetes, HIV-related complications, etc.).

The declining number of applicants for traditional certificate Title X nurse practitioner training along with the escalating costs of providing such training dictates a change in the approach to training clinical providers for the Title X system. Other factors that reinforce the need for a change in approach include changing State requirements and the availability of already credentialed, more broadly prepared clinical providers, such as masters prepared family or adult nurse practitioners, physicians assistants, Doctors of Medicine or Doctors of Osteopathy. The more broadly prepared clinical providers could benefit from in-depth family planning and women's health information and clinical training. In an effort to maintain the quality of family planning service delivery in the Title X system, a strategy for providing this specialized family planning and women's health information to broadly prepared health care providers will be addressed by applicants for funding under this announcement.

It is recognized that because Title X nurse practitioner training has existed in its current form for many years, a period of time will be needed to make necessary adjustments in order to minimize disruption. Therefore, the changes in training health care providers for the Title X service delivery system that are indicated in this announcement will be phased in over the three year project period.

In recognition of the changes indicated in this announcement and the concomitant concern that employment of masters-prepared nurse practitioners will increase the cost of providing clinical services, the Office of Family Planning will make additional funds available to Title X service provider grantees to help offset these additional expenditures. A mechanism will be developed to ensure maintenance and retrieval of previous nurse practitioner training program graduate records.

**Purpose of the Grant**

The two training grants to be funded under this announcement will each provide training services in five of the Department's regions as follows:

(1) One grant with a range of \$300,000–\$1,000,000 to train registered professional nurses and health care practitioners, defined as: qualified nurse practitioners, as defined below; physicians assistants; Doctors of Medicine; and, Doctors of Osteopathy, from the following cluster of regions:

Region I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont);

Region II (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands);

Region III (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia);

Region IV (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee);

Region V (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin).

(2) One grant with a funding range of \$300,000–\$1,000,000 to train registered professional nurses and health care practitioners, defined as: Qualified nurse practitioners, as defined below; physicians assistants; Doctors of Medicine; and, Doctors of Osteopathy, from the following cluster of regions:

Region VI (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas and Louisiana);

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).

For the purpose of this announcement, "qualified nurse practitioner" is defined as: registered professional nurse who is authorized by the State in which services are furnished to practice as a nurse practitioner in accordance with state law.

The training programs funded under this announcement will provide two tracks of training: (1) During Year One of the project period, applicants will be responsible for design and delivery of full course, on-site training to prepare registered professional nurses to function in an advanced nursing role as obstetric-gynecologic or women's health nurse practitioners; and (2) beginning Year Two and through Year Three of the

project period, applicants will be responsible for design and delivery of a speciality course for "health care practitioners," defined as: qualified nurse practitioners, physicians assistants, Doctors of Medicine and Doctors of Osteopathy. The speciality course will include didactic information and clinical instruction specific to family planning and women's health for health care practitioners who are seeking additional training in these areas. The purpose of both of these training efforts is to enhance the quality of family planning and women's health services in the Title X delivery system.

The successful applicant will be responsible for all costs associated with training program administration and management, and for training costs directly associated with preparation of trainees (e.g., educational materials, classroom and clinical training sites, etc.). Trainees or employers of trainees will be responsible for all expenses incurred in association with transportation, housing and personal expenses.

Trainees from Title X funded agencies will receive primary consideration to attend the training program specified for their region. Training applicants may also apply for admission to the alternate program, and may be accepted on a space available basis.

**Role and Operation of the Training Program***Traditional Full Course Nurse Practitioner Training Program*

During Year One of the project period, the successful applicant will be responsible for the design and delivery of a high quality curriculum for a certificate women's health nurse practitioner program specific to the education and role of the nurse practitioner. The training curriculum must include content sufficient to prepare graduates to perform the full range of services required for nurse practitioners in the Title X clinic system. The training program must be accredited as a nurse practitioner program by a national nursing accrediting body, and program graduates must be eligible for national certification.

The training project may not hold more than three full course, on-site classes during Year One of the project period. Each full course may not exceed 16 weeks of on-site course work, with a preceptorship of approximately five and one-half months following the on-site course work. The number of Title X-supported students may not exceed 25 per class. The average cost per Title X-

supported student may not exceed \$12,000. No traditional full course nurse practitioner training may be initiated after the beginning of Year Two of the project period. A thorough report of the full course training program must be completed and submitted to the Office of Family Planning three months after the completion of the last full course training session.

*Specialty Training Course*

During Year Two of the project period, the successful applicant will be required to design and deliver a family planning/women's health specialty course for health care practitioners (as defined in Purpose of the Grant). Development of the specialty course should begin during Year One of the project period and may continue during Year Two. A minimum of one specialty course must be held during Year Two of the project period. The number of specialty courses to be offered during Year Two may not exceed three. The number of specialty courses to be offered during Year Three will be negotiated during the last three months of Year Two. Each specialty course must not exceed six weeks in length, and will include both didactic and clinical course work. A combination of on-site and distant learning approaches may be used. Prior to implementation, the curriculum and admissions criteria for candidates (including prerequisite qualifications) for the specialty course must be submitted to the Office of Family Planning (OFP) for review and approval. The number of Title X-supported trainees may not exceed 15 per class. The cost per Title X-supported student for the specialty course may not exceed \$4,000.

**Project Requirements and Management**

Successful applicants will be required to work closely with Central and Regional Office staffs and a network of agencies, including Title X service providers and training advisory committees. The design of both the full course and the specialty course, including the curriculum, must be consistent with Title X statute, regulations and priorities.

Successful applicants will be responsible for the overall management of the training activities within the geographic area for which the grant is made. This responsibility includes:

(1) Meeting national or State recognition requirements as a provider of continuing education through a national nursing organization or one of its constituents, and facilitating the award of continuing education units to

nurse practitioner trainees, where appropriate;

(2) Developing an annual training plan which reflects an assessments of the needs of Title X service grantees for both types of training activities in the regions for which the grant is awarded;

(3) Maintaining data on training activities and trainees sufficient to allow evaluation by credentialing and licensing bodies and by the Office of Family Planning, Office of Population Affairs;

(4) Submitting to the Office of Family Planning a thorough report on the traditional nurse practitioner training course, three months after the completion of the last full course training session, including data on training activities and trainees;

(5) Developing and implementing an evaluation plan for the specialty course within Year Two of the project period. A thorough evaluation report of the specialty course, including data on trainees, will be submitted to OFP at the completion of Year Two of the project period and six months prior to the end of Year Three of the project period;

(6) Making available at cost all materials developed with Title X funds to other title X projects upon request; and

(7) Participating in at least one meeting with the Office of Family Planning annually;

**Application Requirements:** Any public or private nonprofit organization is eligible to apply for a grant. 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.

Applications must be submitted on the forms supplied (PHS-5161-1, Revised 5/96) and in the manner prescribed in the application kits available from the Office of Grants Management. Applicants are required to submit an application signed by an individual authorized to act for the applicant agency or organization and to assume for the organization the obligations imposed by the terms and conditions of the grant award. Applicants are required to submit an original application and two copies.

A copy of Title X legislation and regulations that govern this program will be sent to applicants as part of the application kit package. Applicants should use the legislation, regulations and other information included in this announcement to guide them in developing their applications. Applications should be limited to 60 double-spaced pages, not including

appendices providing curriculum vitae, curriculum, or statements of organizational capabilities. Awards will be made only to those applicants who have met all applicable requirements.

Applications must be received on or before the deadline date to be accepted for review. An application received after the deadline may be acceptable if it carries a legible proof-of-mailing date assigned by the carrier and the proof-of-mailing date is not later than one week prior to the deadline date. Private metered postmarks will not be accepted as proof of timely mailing. Applications which are received by the Office of Grants Management after the deadline date will not be accepted for review. Applications which do not conform to the requirements of this program announcement or meet the applicable parts of 42 CFR part 59, subpart C will not be accepted for review. Applicants will be so notified and the applications will be returned.

Accepted applications will be subjected to a competitive review process. The results of this review will assist the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs in considering competing applications and making the final funding decisions.

**Application Consideration and Assessment:** Eligible applications will be reviewed by a panel of independent reviewers and will be assessed against the following criteria:

(1) The extent to which the proposed training program will increase the delivery of services to people, particularly low-income groups, with a high percentage of unmet need for family planning services, as evidenced by the applicant's ability to address the requirements set out under "Role and Operation of the Training Program." (25 points);

(2) The extent to which the proposed training program promises to fulfill the family planning service delivery needs of the area to be served, as evidenced by the applicant's ability to address: (a) The extent to which the training curricula and objectives will improve the family planning service delivery skills of registered nurses and other health care practitioners (as defined in "Purposes of the Grant") providing family planning services; (b) the extent to which the training program proposes appropriate strategies to recruit and train nurse practitioners and other health care practitioners requiring specialized family planning training; and, (c) the factors set out at 42 CFR 59.206(a)(2)(i)-(iv). (25 points);

(3) The capacity of the applicant to make rapid and effective use of the training grant (10 points);

(4) The administrative and management capacity and competence of the applicant (15 points);

(5) The competence of the project staff in relation to the services to be provided, including demonstrating that project staff, meet educational and experience requirements of appropriate credentialing bodies. (15 points);

(6) The degree to which the project plan adequately provides for the requirements set forth in 42 CFR 59.205, including the applicant's presentation of the project's objectives, the methods of achieving project objectives, the ability to involve providers and the regional office, and the results or benefits expected. (10 points).

In making grant award decisions, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs (DASPA) will fund those projects which will in her judgement best promote the purposes of section 1003 of the Act, within the limits of funds available for such projects.

Grants will be approved for project periods of up to three years and will be funded in annual increments (budget periods). Funding for all approved budget periods beyond the first year of the grant is contingent upon satisfactory progress of the project, efficient and effective use of grant funds provided, and availability of funds.

**Review Under Executive Order 12372:** Applications under this announcement are subject to the review requirements of Executive Order 12372, State Review of Applications for Federal Financial Assistance, as implemented by 45 CFR part 100. As soon as possible, the applicant should discuss the project with the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for each State in the area to be served. The application kit contains the currently available listing of the SPOC's which have elected to be informed of the submission of applications. For those states not represented on the listing, further inquiries should be made by applicant regarding the submission to the relevant SPOC. The SPOC comment(s) should be forwarded to the Grants Management Office, Office of Population Affairs, 4350 East-West Highway, Suite 20 West, Bethesda, MD 20814. Such comments must be received by the Office of Population Affairs within 60 days of the closing date listed under "Dates" above.

When final funding decisions have been made, each applicant will be notified by letter of the outcome. The official document notifying an applicant that a project application has been approved for funding is the Notice of Grant Award, which specifies to the grantee the amount of money awarded,

the purposes of the grant, and terms and conditions of the grant award.

**Authority:** 43 U.S.C. 300(a)).

Dated: March 15, 1999.

**Denese O. Shervington,**

*Deputy Assistance Secretary for Population Affairs.*

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