

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

RIN 0905-ZA99

**Office of Public Health and Science;
Announcement of Availability of
Grants for Adolescent Family Life
Demonstration Projects**

AGENCY: Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs, Office of Population Affairs, OPHS, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs (OAPP) requests applications for grants under the Adolescent Family Life (AFL) Demonstration Projects Program. These grants are for community-based and community-supported demonstration projects to find effective means of preventing pregnancy by encouraging adolescents to abstain from sexual activity through provision of age-appropriate education on sexuality and decision-making skills. Although adolescents under age 19 are eligible for services, the OAPP is particularly interested in projects which target youth ages 9 to 14.

Funds are available for approximately 40–50 projects, which may be located in any State, the District of Columbia, the territories of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Applicants also should be aware that the Department of Health and Human Services' Maternal and Child Health Bureau will be issuing separate grant application guidance to State Health Agencies for the Abstinence education provision contained in the "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996", Pub.L. 104–193.

DATES: To receive consideration grant applications must be received by the Director, Grants Management Office by April 28, 1997. Applications will be considered as meeting the deadline if they are either (1) received on or before the deadline date, or (2) postmarked on or before the deadline date and received in time for submission to the review committee. 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 which do not meet the deadline will be considered late applications and will be returned to the applicant.

ADDRESSES: Requests for application kits may be faxed to (301) 594–5980. Application kits may also be obtained from and applications must be submitted to: Grants Management Office, Office of Population Affairs, 4350 East-West Highway, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Grants Management Office at (301) 594–4012 or Program Office at (301) 594–4004. Staff are available to answer questions and provide limited technical assistance in the preparation of grant applications.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title XX of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 300z, *et seq.*, authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for demonstration projects to provide services to pregnant and nonpregnant adolescents, adolescent parents and their families. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 93.995) Title XX authorizes grants for three types of demonstration projects: (1) Projects which provide "care services" only (*i.e.*, services for the provision of care of pregnant adolescents, adolescent parents and their families); (2) projects which provide "prevention services" only (*i.e.*, services to prevent adolescent sexual relations); and (3) projects which provide a combination of care and prevention services.

Under this program announcement, OAPP intends to make available approximately \$8 million to support an estimated 40–50 new *prevention* demonstration projects only. An applicant may submit a proposal for a *local* or *state-wide* prevention project. The awards will range from \$100,000 to \$225,000. These grants will be awarded for a period of one year, and the availability of funding for later years is uncertain. Therefore, we encourage applications from experienced organizations which are currently operating programs and which have the capability of expanding and enhancing these services to serve significant numbers of adolescents according to the guidelines specified in this announcement. Additional funds may be available in Fiscal Year 1998 and following years. If funds do become available, grantees funded under this program announcement will be eligible to reapply for continued funding.

Grants are funded in annual increments (budget periods). Funding for all approved budget periods beyond the first year of a grant is contingent upon the availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the project, and adequate stewardship of Federal funds.

A grant award may not exceed 70 percent of the total cost of the project for each of the first and second years and 60 percent for the third year. The non-Federal share of the project costs may be provided in cash expenditures or fairly evaluated in-kind contributions, including plant, equipment and services.

The specific prevention services which may be funded under Title XX are listed below under PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

The following application requirements contain information collections subject to OMB approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13). These information collections have been approved by OMB under control number 0937–0189.

Eligible Applicants

Any public or private nonprofit organization or agency is eligible to apply for a grant. Grants are awarded only to those organizations or agencies which are determined to demonstrate the capability of providing the proposed services and meet the statutory requirements.

Prevention Programs

Under this announcement, funds are available for local or state-wide projects.

The primary purpose of prevention programs is to find effective means of reaching adolescents, both male and female, before they become sexually active in order to encourage them to abstain from sexual activity. There is general agreement that early initiation of sexual activity brings not only the risk of unintended pregnancy but also substantial health risks to adolescents, primarily infection with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV. Accordingly, applicants must provide services that help pre-adolescents and young adolescents acquire knowledge and skills that will instill healthy attitudes and encourage and support abstinence from sexual activity. Any information provided for adolescents who may be or become sexually active, which relates to reducing the risk of unintended pregnancy and disease, must be medically accurate and must be presented within the context that abstinence is the best choice and is what the project recommends.

Under this announcement, applicants may propose to develop and test new prevention curricula, update existing curricula or use existing and available educational materials/curricula which are consistent with this program

announcement within their demonstration projects.

Programs must be consistent with abstinence education as defined in the "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996", Pub. L. 104-193. Accordingly, the term "abstinence education" means an educational or motivational program which—

A. Has as its exclusive purpose, teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity;

B. Teaches abstinence from sexual activity outside marriage as the expected standard for all school age children;

C. Teaches that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated health problems;

D. Teaches that a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in context of marriage is the expected standard of human sexual activity;

E. Teaches that sexual activity outside of the context of marriage is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects;

F. Teaches that bearing children out-of-wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child's parents, and society;

G. Teaches young people how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances; and

H. Teaches the importance of attaining self-sufficiency before engaging in sexual activity.

Under the statutory requirements of Title XX, applicants for prevention programs are not required to provide any specific array of services. OAPP encourages the submission of applications which focus on educational services relating to family life and which teach the social, psychological and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity.

The legislation also permits a proposal to include any one or more of the following services as appropriate:

(1) Educational services relating to family life and problems associated with adolescent premarital sexual relations including:

(a) Information about adoption,
(b) Education on the responsibilities of sexuality and parenting,

(c) The development of material to support the role of parents as the providers of sex education, and

(d) Assistance to parents, schools, youth agencies and health providers to educate adolescents and preadolescents concerning self-discipline and responsibility in human sexuality;

(2) Appropriate educational and vocational services;

(3) Counseling for the immediate and extended family members of the eligible person;

(4) Transportation;

(5) Outreach services to families of adolescents to discourage sexual relations among unemancipated minors;

If an applicant chooses to provide any of the above services in addition to educational services relating to family life and problems associated with adolescent premarital sexual relations, the applicant must justify how these services ((2) through (5)) will support or promote the educational component.

Evaluation

Section 2006(b)(1) of Title XX requires each grantee to expend at least one percent but not more than five percent of the Federal funds received under Title XX on evaluation of the project. As this is a demonstration program, all applications are required to have an evaluation component of high quality consistent with the scope of the proposed project and the funding level. All project evaluations should monitor program processes to determine whether the program has been carried out as planned and measure the program's outcomes. Waivers of the five percent limit on evaluation (see sec. 2006(b)(1)) may be granted in cases where a more rigorous or comprehensive evaluation effort is proposed.

Section 2006(b)(2) requires that an organization or an entity independent of the grantee providing services assist the grantee in evaluating the project. The OAPP strongly recommends extensive collaboration between the applicant organization and the proposed evaluator in the development of the intervention, development of the evaluation hypothesis(es), identification of the variables to be measured and a timetable for initiation of the intervention, baseline measurement, and ongoing evaluation data collection and analysis.

Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted on the forms supplied (PHS 5161-1, Revised 5/96) and in the manner prescribed in the application kits provided by the OAPP. 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. *Applications sent by FAX will not be accepted.*

Applicants must be familiar with Title XX in its entirety to ensure that they

have complied with all applicable requirements. A copy of the legislation is included in the application kit.

It should be noted that grantees may not teach or promote religion in their AFL project. Each grant project must be accessible to the public generally, not just to those of a particular religious affiliation.

Under sec. 2011(a) of the Act, AFL projects may not provide abortions or abortion counseling or referral either directly or through subcontract and may not advocate, promote or encourage abortion. However, if both the adolescent and her parents request abortion counseling, a project may provide referral for such counseling.

Additional Requirements

Applicants for grants must also meet the following requirements:

(1) *Requirements for Review of an Application by the Governor.* Section 2006(e) of Title XX requires that each applicant shall provide the Governor of the State in which the applicant is located a copy of each application submitted to OAPP for a grant for a demonstration project for services under this Title. The Governor has 60 days from the receipt date in which to provide comments to the applicant.

An applicant may comply with this requirement by submitting a copy of the application to the Governor of the State in which the applicant is located at the same time the application is submitted to OAPP. To inform the Governor's office of the reason for the submission, a copy of this notice should be attached to the application.

(2) *Review Under Executive Order 12372.* Applications under this announcement are subject to the review requirements of E.O. 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," as implemented by 45 CFR part 100, "Intergovernmental Review of Department of Health and Human Services Programs and Activities." E.O. 12372 sets up a system for state and local government review of proposed Federal assistance applications. As soon as possible the applicant (other than federally-recognized Indian tribal governments) should contact the Governor's Office in the state to be served for information regarding the particular review process designed by the state. The State comment(s) should be forwarded to the Grants Management Office, Office of Population Affairs, 4350 East-West Highway, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814. Such comments must be received by the Office of Population Affairs by August 11, 1997, to be considered.

The application kit contains information to guide applicants in fulfilling the above requirements.

Application Consideration and Assessment

Applications which are judged to be late or which do not conform to the requirements of this program announcement will not be accepted for review. Applicants will be so notified, and the applications will be returned. All other applicants will be reviewed by a multidisciplinary panel of independent reviewers and assessed according to the following criteria:

(1) The capacity of the proposed applicant organization to provide rapid and effective use of resources needed to conduct the project, collect data and evaluate it. This includes personnel, time and facilities. (30 points)

(2) The applicant's rationale for use of the proposed approach and its worth for testing and/or replication based upon its previous demonstration, review of the literature and/or evaluation findings. (20 points)

(3) The applicant's presentation of an appropriate project design, consistent with the requirements of Title XX, including a clear statement of goals and objectives, reasonable methods for

achieving the objectives, a reasonable workplan and timetable and a clear statement of results or benefits expected. (30 points)

(4) The applicant's presentation of a detailed evaluation plan, indicating an understanding of program evaluation methods and reflecting a practical, technically sound approach to assessing the project's achievement of program objectives.

Final grant award decisions will be made by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Populations Affairs. In making these decisions, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs will take into account the extent to which grants approved for funding will provide an appropriate geographic distribution of resources, the priorities in sec. 2005(a), and the other factors in sec. 2005, including consideration of:

(1) The applicant's capacity to administer funds responsible;

(2) The incidence of adolescent pregnancy and the availability of services in the geographic area to be served;

(3) The population to be served;

(4) The community commitment to and involvement in planning and implementation of the demonstration project;

(5) The organizational model(s) for delivery of service;

(6) The usefulness for policymakers and service providers of the proposed project and its potential for complementing existing adolescent health models;

(7) The reasonableness of the estimated cost to the government considering the anticipated results.

OAPP does not release information about individual applications during the review process until final funding decisions have been made. When these decisions have been made, applicants will be notified by letter of the outcome of their applications. The official document notifying an applicant that an application has been approved for funding is the Notice of Grant Award, which specifies to the grantee the amount of money awarded, the purpose of the grant, the terms and conditions of the grant award, and the amount of funding to be contributed by the grantee to project costs.

Dated: January 17, 1997.

Thomas C. Kring,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs.

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