

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Office of Public Health and Science; Announcement of Availability of Grants for Family Planning Male Research Projects

**AGENCY:** Office of Family Planning, OPHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Family Planning (OFP) requests applications for grants for research in certain behavioral and program implementation fields related to family planning.

**DATES:** To receive consideration, applications must be received by the Grants Management Office no later than June 23, 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 legible date receipt from a commercial carrier or U.S. Postal Service will be accepted in lieu of postmark. Private metered postmarks will not be accepted as proof of timely mailing. Applications which do not meet the deadline will not be accepted for review. Applications which do not conform to the requirements of the program announcement will not be accepted for review. Applicants will be notified, and applications will be returned.

**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, the Office of Population Affairs, Grants Management Office, 4350 East-West Highway, Suite 200, West Tower, Bethesda, MD 20814.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. June L. Dow, (301) 594-4000, for assistance on technical and program aspects; Grants Management Office, (301) 594-4012, to answer questions and provide technical assistance in the preparation of grant applications.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title X of the PHS Act, 42 U.S.C. 300, *et seq.*, authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for projects to provide research in behavioral and program implementation fields related to family planning. The Office of Family Planning (OFP) intends to make available approximately \$1 million to support an estimated four community-based service programs to investigate innovative approaches for providing family planning/reproductive health related information and services specifically targeted to males.

### Statutory Background

Title X of the PHS Act, enacted by Public Law 91-572, authorizes programs related to family planning. Section 1004 of the Act, as amended, authorizes the Secretary to make grants to entities to conduct research in behavioral and program implementation fields related to family planning. Implementing regulations appear at 42 CFR Part 52. This announcement seeks to encourage the investigation and development of effective approaches that facilitate the provision of family planning/reproductive health related information and services to males and approaches that involve males in building community support for pregnancy prevention and contraception.

### Purposes of Grant

The family planning program authorized by Section 1001 of Title X is required by law to provide family planning services, including education and counseling, to all persons desiring such services. One subgroup of the population that has been under-represented in the traditional family planning delivery system is males. For example, in the Title X family planning program, less than two percent of the approximately 5,000,000 persons served are males.

Experience has shown that it is difficult to draw males into family planning/reproductive health related information and services. The reasons posited for low male participation in family planning range from the belief that family planning/reproductive health related information and services is synonymous with contraception and is "a woman's province" to the fact that the environment surrounding most traditional family planning/reproductive health related information and services is largely female-oriented. In other words, the under-representation of males may be related to how little is really known about what most appropriately constitutes family planning/reproductive health for males. In addition, most of the highly effective contraceptive methods are those used by females, and the fact that pregnancy occurs in females may lead to the conclusion that they have the greatest self-interest in managing contraception. As the incidence of STD/HIV infection has increased, so too has the attention given to barrier methods of contraception, such as the condom, and to the motivation of males to use this method to prevent disease transmission, as well as pregnancy. Findings from a number of studies suggest that males believe that contraception is a joint

responsibility and that more efforts to involve males may indeed prove successful. Research also suggests that contraceptive use by females is greatly affected by their male partners' communication and attitudes and that encouragement from the male partner is the strongest predictor of female use of contraception.

Federal programs have recently begun to focus more attention on male involvement in family planning/reproductive health related information and services, as evidenced by the President's Fatherhood Initiative, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, and the emphasis on male responsibility contained in the "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996", P.L. 104-193.

Proposals should focus on one or more of the following areas, as they relate to males: (1) Determining the appropriate mix of activities that positively affect the retention of basic information and education needed for responsible family planning/reproductive health decision-making; (2) developing and testing approaches for providing family planning services to males or for encouraging males to seek access to services that already exist; (3) developing and testing approaches that involve adult males in providing information that encourages responsible family planning/reproductive health decision-making in adolescent males; (4) developing and testing ways to involve males in building community support for the prevention of unintended pregnancy.

Funds are available under this announcement to encourage the development and implementation of projects that will test a variety of approaches as they relate to involving males in family planning/reproductive health related information and services. Applicants must review and consider policy and program goals of the Title X family planning program and must work with a network of entities, which should include other federal, State, local or community-based health and social service agencies in implementing the project. Successful applicants who do not provide clinical services must have referral mechanisms in place for the provision of such services. Applicants choosing an educational approach should specify what curricula will be implemented. Grants under this announcement are not intended for curriculum or material development; existing curricula, or adaptations of existing curricula, should be used.

An applicant for a grant under this announcement may elect to develop a

family planning/reproductive health related information and services component which includes any one or more of the following services as appropriate:

- (1) Educational services or other activities relating to family planning/reproductive health;
- (2) Counseling relating to family planning/reproductive health issues;
- (3) Outreach services to males and their families on family planning/reproductive health issues;
- (4) Clinical services appropriate to family planning/reproductive health;
- (5) Public information and education on family planning/reproductive health issues.

Applicants should clearly state how such component relates to the general research goals of the proposed project.

#### Evaluation

In order to accomplish the research goals of the program, all applicants are required to have an evaluation component of high quality consistent with the scope of the proposed project and the funding level. Project evaluations should monitor program processes to determine whether the program has been carried out as planned and to measure the program's outcomes.

#### 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. Organizations that are experienced in providing a variety of services to males, such as social, educational, vocational, and legal services (e.g., tutoring, mentoring, job skills training), and have the capability of expansion to include development and testing of family planning/reproductive health related information and services, are encouraged to apply for a grant under this announcement.

#### Application Requirements

Applications must comply with the applicable requirements at 42 CFR 52.4 and be submitted on the forms supplied (PHS-5161-1) (OMB Approval No. 0937-0189) 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.

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

Any public or private nonprofit organization or agency is eligible to apply for a grant. Awards will be made only to those organizations or agencies which have demonstrated the capability of providing the proposed services, and which have met all applicable requirements.

A copy of the legislation governing this program will be sent to applicants as part of the application kit. Applicants should use the legislation and other information included in this announcement to guide them in developing their applications. Applications should be limited to 35 double-spaced pages, not including appendices providing curriculum vitae or statements of organizational capabilities.

#### Review Under Executive Order 12372

Applicants under this announcement are subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372.

#### Application Consideration and Assessment

Eligible grant applications will be reviewed by a multidisciplinary panel of independent reviewers and assessed according to the following criteria:

1. A clear description of the project, including goals and objectives, methods of achieving objectives, a reasonable workplan and timetable, and a clear statement of results or benefits expected. (20 points)
2. The feasibility of the project and the likelihood of its producing meaningful results, as evidenced by the applicant's presentation of an evaluation plan, reflecting a practical, technically sound methodology to measure the extent to which the proposed approach enhances the delivery of family planning/reproductive health education, counseling and/or services to males, their partners and their families and its potential for replication. (30 points)
3. The history of the applicant organization in successfully providing a variety of services to males, such as

social, educational, vocational and legal services. (30 points)

4. The administrative and management capability of the applicant organization in relation to the type of research proposed, the project period, and the adequacy of the applicant's resources for the project. (20 points)

Final grant award decisions will be made by the DASPA. In making these decisions, the DASPA will take into account the extent to which grants approved for funding will provide an appropriate geographic distribution of resources, and will take into consideration:

- (1) The scientific merit and significance of the proposed projects;
- (2) The applicant's capacity to administer funds responsibly;
- (3) The population to be served;
- (4) The organizational model(s);
- (5) The usefulness for policymakers and service providers of the proposed project and the likelihood of its producing meaningful results;
- (6) The reasonableness of the estimated cost to the government considering the anticipated results; and,
- (7) Empowerment zones and enterprise communities be designated as target areas for these projects.

Grants are funded in annual increments (budget periods). Projects may be funded for up to three (3) years. 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.

The OFP 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 grantees the amount of money awarded, the purpose of the grant, the terms and conditions of the grant award, and the amount of funding, if any, to be contributed by the grantee to project costs.

Dated: May 1, 1997.

**Thomas C. Kring,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 97-12008 Filed 5-7-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-17-M