

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

[Announcement 533]

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Cooperative Agreement for Model Program for Occupational Respiratory Disease Evaluation and Rehabilitation**Introduction**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 1995 funds for a cooperative agreement program for Occupational Respiratory Disease Evaluation and Rehabilitation through the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The Public Health Service (PHS) is committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives of Healthy People 2000, a PHS-led national activity to reduce morbidity and mortality and improve the quality of life. This announcement is related to the priority area of Occupational Safety and Health. (For ordering Healthy People 2000 see the Section WHERE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.)

Authority

This program is authorized under Sections 20(a) and 21(a) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and Section 501(a) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act (29 U.S.C. 669(a) and 670(a); 30 U.S.C. 951(a)).

Smoke-Free Workplace

PHS strongly encourages all grant recipients to provide a smoke-free workplace and promote the non-use of all tobacco products, and Public Law 103-227, the Pro-Children Act of 1994, prohibits smoking in certain facilities that receive Federal funds in which education, library, day care, health care, and early childhood development services are provided to children.

Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by public and private, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and governments and their agencies. Thus, universities, colleges, research institutions, hospitals, other public and private organizations, State and local health departments or their bona fide agents, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, Indian tribes or Indian tribal organizations, and small, minority- and/or women-owned businesses are eligible to apply.

Availability of Funds

Approximately \$275,000 will be available in FY 1995 to fund one to two awards. The award(s) is expected to begin on or about September 30, 1995, for a 12-month budget period within a project period of three to five years. Funding estimates may vary and are subject to change. Continuation awards within the project period will be made on the basis of satisfactory progress and the availability of funds.

Purpose

The purpose of this occupational respiratory disease cooperative agreement is to assist in the development, implementation, and maintenance of a model program for the diagnosis, evaluation, and rehabilitation of individuals with occupational respiratory disease. This program may build on existing expertise of an institution or provide assistance in initiating a new program. This program will report and disseminate findings, as well as relevant health and safety education and training information, to State health officials, health-care providers, workers, managers, unions, and employers. This program will include an evaluation of current standard and innovative interventions for early identification of occupational respiratory diseases which results in recommendations for, or a plan for the development of, new methods and techniques to improve the early recognition, rehabilitation and therapy of these diseases. The evaluation component built into each project should include carefully developed, realistic and appropriate evaluation tools. The evaluation results will be used to modify and improve ongoing program plans.

The objectives of the occupational respiratory disease evaluation and rehabilitation program are as follows:

1. To assist an institution in the development or refinement of a program for evaluation and rehabilitation of occupational respiratory disease.
2. To provide the opportunity for an institution to evaluate the effectiveness of a model program for evaluation and rehabilitation of occupational respiratory disease.
3. To provide a collaborative focus for occupational health expertise in occupational respiratory disease.
4. Contribute to a better understanding of occupational respiratory diseases.
5. Ultimately reduce the morbidity, mortality, and social and economic burden of occupational respiratory diseases in the United States.

Program Requirements

In conducting activities to achieve the purpose of this program, the recipient shall be responsible for conducting activities under A. (Recipient Activities) below, and CDC/NIOSH will be responsible for conducting activities under B. (CDC/NIOSH Activities) below:

A. Recipient Activities

1. Identify a director for the program (or each program component).
2. Develop a targeted list of occupational respiratory diseases to be evaluated such as (but not limited to) silicosis, coal workers' pneumoconiosis, asbestosis, occupational asthma, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, organic dust diseases, and acute toxic respiratory injuries
3. Develop and conduct a model program for the early recognition, evaluation, diagnosis, rehabilitation, and therapy of occupational respiratory diseases.
4. Report and disseminate information on the organization, activities, and findings of the model program, as well as relevant health and safety education and training information to State and Federal health officials, health-care providers, workers, managers, unions, and employers.
5. Work with State and Federal disability compensation programs to identify and enroll workers who could be offered diagnosis, evaluation and rehabilitation of occupational respiratory diseases.
6. Develop a protocol(s) for the evaluation and rehabilitation of occupational respiratory diseases. Obtain peer review of the protocol(s); revise and finalize, as required, for final approval; evaluate the effectiveness of the protocol(s). Disseminate the results of these efforts to other health-care institutions evaluating, diagnosing, and rehabilitating workers with occupational respiratory diseases.
7. Develop new methods and techniques that improve the early recognition and rehabilitation of workers with occupational respiratory diseases.

B. CDC/NIOSH Activities

1. Provide technical assistance through site visits and correspondence for the development and implementation of the model program.
2. Provide scientific collaboration for the model program.
3. Provide limited professional assistance during the conduct of the program including, but not limited to, physicians, nurses, epidemiologists, statisticians, industrial hygienists and laboratory scientists.