

4. The administrative and managerial ability of the applicant to carry out the project in a cost effective manner;

5. The adequacy of the staff and faculty to carry out the program;

6. The soundness of the budget for assuring effective utilization of grant funds, and the proportion of total program funds which come from non-Federal sources and the degree to which they are projected to increase over the grant period;

7. The number of individuals who can be expected to benefit from the project; and

8. The overall impact the project will have on strengthening the school's capacity to train the targeted minority health professionals and increase the supply of minority health professionals available to serve minority populations in underserved areas.

Established Funding Preference: A funding preference will be given to competing continuation (renewal) applications for Centers of Excellence programs whose current project periods end in fiscal year 1996 and which score at or above the 50th percentile of all applications which are recommended for approval. The purpose of this preference is to maximize Federal and non-Federal investments in accomplishing the nature and scope of the legislative purposes of the Centers of Excellence Program. To realize the intended impact of the COE program more than one grant period is required. This funding preference is intended to direct assistance to quality COE programs that have documented sustained or increased accomplishments under this program.

This funding preference was established in FY 1995, following public comment (60 FR 6719, dated February 3, 1995) and is continued in FY 1996 with the addition of the requirement to score at or above the 50th percentile.

Maintenance of Effort: A health professions school receiving a grant will be required to maintain expenditures of non-Federal amounts for such activities at a level that is not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the school for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the school receives such a grant. In addition, the school agrees that before expending grant funds, the school will expend amounts obtained from sources other than the grant.

Funding: The statute requires that, of the amount appropriated for any fiscal year, the first \$12 million will be allocated to certain Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) described in section 799(1)(A) of the Act and which received a contract under

section 788B of the Act (Advanced Financial Distress Assistance) for the fiscal year 1987. Of the remaining balance, sixty (60) percent must be allocated to Hispanic and Native American Centers of Excellence, and forty (40) percent must be allocated to the "Other" Centers of Excellence. A grant made for a fiscal year may not be made in an amount that is less than \$500,000 for each Center.

Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP)

Purpose and Eligibility: Section 740 authorizes the Secretary to make grants to and enter into contracts with schools of allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, public health, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, pharmacy, allied health, chiropractic and podiatric medicine and public and nonprofit private schools which offer graduate programs in clinical psychology and other public or private nonprofit health or educational entities to carry out programs which assist individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to enter and graduate from such schools. The assistance authorized by this section may be used to: (1) Identify, recruit, and select individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds for education and training in a health profession; (2) provide for a period prior to the entry of such individuals into the regular course of education of such a school, preliminary education designed to assist them to complete successfully such regular course of education at such a school or referring such individuals to institutions providing such preliminary education; (3) facilitate the entry and retention of such individuals in health and allied health professions schools; and (4) provide counseling and advice on financial aid to assist such individuals to complete successfully their education at such schools. Applicants must address at least 2 purposes. The period of Federal support will not exceed 3 years.

Project Requirements for Postbaccalaureate Programs: The following project requirements for postbaccalaureate programs were established as a preference after public comment at 55 FR 11264, dated March 27, 1990. Postbaccalaureate programs may also combine the following requirements with other HCOP activities as defined in the statutory purposes described above.

A. A health professions school will meet the requirements for a postbaccalaureate program if:

1. Either the applicant health professions school or an undergraduate

school with which it has a formal arrangement:

a. Identifies and selects a cohort of seven or more disadvantaged students that have completed an undergraduate prehealth professions program and applied but were not accepted into a health professions school, or made a late decision to enter a new health professions school for participation in the program; and

b. Provides the selected student cohort with one calendar year (including the initial 6 to 8 week summer program) of rigorous postbaccalaureate (undergraduate and/or professional) level science and other appropriate educational experiences to prepare the students for entry into the applicant health professions school; and

2. The applicant health professions school:

a. Accepts for enrollment in the first year of its health professions school class, upon entry into the postbaccalaureate program, members of the cohort who successfully complete the program; or assures enrollment, at the election of the student at another health professions school; and

b. Provides members of the cohort and other disadvantaged enrollees retention services including a 6 to 8 week prematriculation summer program to ease their transition into the health professions school curriculum.

Stipends would be available through the grant for the targeted students during their summer programs and undergraduate academic year participation.

B. A school of allied health will meet the requirements for a postbaccalaureate program if:

1. Either the applicant allied health school or an undergraduate school offering pre-allied health preparation with which the school has a formal arrangement:

a. Identifies and selects a cohort of five or more disadvantaged students for participation in the program who have completed an undergraduate degree with a significant science focus and made a late decision to enter an allied health professions school and are in pursuit of a baccalaureate level degree in physical therapy, physician assistant, respiratory therapy, medical technology, or occupational therapy; and

b. Provides the selected student cohort with one calendar year (including an initial 6 to 8 week summer program) of rigorous science and other education experiences (e.g., allied health basic science, and quantitative and reading skills), to prepare them for entry at the end of that year into one of the above-named