

cultural and linguistic needs of special populations, that services are accessible to consumers, and that the broadest possible representation of culturally distinct and historically underrepresented groups is supported through programs and projects sponsored by the MCHB.

In keeping with our special concern for broadening participation in MCHB programs of institutions that reflect the Nation's cultural and linguistic diversity, a funding priority will be placed on projects from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) or Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) in all categories and subcategories in this notice for which applications from academic institutions are encouraged. An approved proposal from a HBCU or HSI will receive a 0.5 point favorable adjustment of the priority score in a 4 point range before funding decisions are made.

Projects supported under SPRANS are expected to be part of community-wide, comprehensive initiatives, to reflect appropriate coordination of primary care and public health activities, and to target HRSA resources effectively to fill gaps in the Nation's health system for at-risk mothers and children. This applies especially to projects in the 22 communities in the Nation which have received grants from HRSA under the Healthy Start initiative. Grantees in these communities providing services related to activities of a Healthy Start program are expected to coordinate their projects with the Healthy Start program efforts. Healthy Start communities include: Aberdeen Area Indian Nations, NE/ND/SD; Baltimore, MD; Birmingham, AL; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Cleveland, OH; Dallas, TX; Detroit, MI; Essex County, NJ; Florida Panhandle, FL; Lake County, IN; Milwaukee, WI; Mississippi Delta, MS; New Orleans, LA; New York, NY; Oakland, CA; Philadelphia, PA; Pittsburgh, PA; PeeDee Region, SC; Richmond, VA; Savannah, GA; Washington, DC.

3. Project Review and Funding

Within the limit of funds determined by the Secretary to be available for the activities described in this announcement, the Secretary will review applications for funds under the specific project categories in section 4 below as competing applications and may award Federal funding for projects which will, in her judgment, best promote the purpose of title V of the Social Security Act, with special emphasis on improving service delivery to women and children from culturally distinct populations; best address

achievement of *Healthy Children 2000* objectives related to maternal, infant, child and adolescent health and service systems for children at risk of chronic and disabling conditions; and otherwise best promote improvements in maternal and child health.

3.1 Criteria for Review

The criteria which follow are used, as pertinent, to review and evaluate applications for awards under all SPRANS grants and cooperative agreement project categories announced in this notice. Further guidance in this regard is supplied in application guidance materials, which elaborate upon how these criteria apply to specific grant categories and subcategories.

- The extent to which the project will contribute to the advancement of maternal and child health and/or improvement of the health of children with special health care needs;
- The extent to which the project is responsive to policy concerns applicable to MCH grants and to program objectives, requirements, priorities and/or review criteria for specific project categories, as published in program announcements or guidance materials.
- The extent to which the estimated cost to the Government of the project is reasonable, considering the anticipated results;
- The extent to which the project personnel are well qualified by training and/or experience for their roles in the project and the applicant organization has adequate facilities and personnel; and
- The extent to which, insofar as practicable, the proposed activities, if well executed, are capable of attaining project objectives.
- The strength of the project's plans for evaluation.
- The extent to which the project will be integrated with the administration of the Maternal and Child Health Services block grants, State primary care plans, public health, and prevention programs, and other related programs in the respective State(s).
- The extent to which the application is responsive to the special concerns and program priorities specified in this notice.

3.2 Funding of Approved Applications

Final funding decisions for SPRANS grants are the responsibility of the Director, MCHB. The following mechanisms, as defined below, may be applied in determining scores for

ranking the funding of approved applications:

- Funding Preferences—Funding of a specific category or group of approved applications ahead of other categories or groups of applications, such as competing continuation projects ahead of new projects.
- Funding Priorities—Merit reviewers will assign scores based on the extent to which applicants address program priorities specified in this notice for the category in which the application is made.
- Special Considerations—Merit reviewers will assign scores based on the extent to which applicants address areas that are identified in this notice as meriting special consideration.

4. Special Projects of Regional and National Significance

Project categories for SPRANS awards are grouped in this notice under two sections: Grants and Cooperative Agreements.

4.1. Grants

Two major categories of SPRANS grants are discussed below: Genetic Services; and Maternal and Child Health Improvement Projects (in 4 subcategories):

4.1.1. Genetic Services

Application Deadline: April 25, 1995.

Purpose: To support projects that demonstrate increased access to effective genetic information, education, testing and counseling services.

Priorities: Applicants to the genetic services program are invited to submit proposals in the areas of:

- Genetics in primary care. To aid in incorporating genetics into maternal and child health and federally-qualified health centers' (FQHC) primary care programs.
- Ethnocultural barriers. To improve services for populations for whom language and/or culture are barriers.
- Regional genetic services networks. To maintain genetic services networks in the Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Mountain States, and areas encompassing New York, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.
- Cooley's Anemia/Thalassemia. To demonstrate comprehensive care for those affected by Cooley's Anemia/Thalassemia.
- Comprehensive care for infants with Sickle Cell Disease identified through State newborn screening programs.
- Transition from pediatric to adult care. To demonstrate models of care for individuals with genetic disorders