

November 29, 1978, to construct a new United States Courthouse in downtown Fresno, California.

The new Courthouse will be 360,000 gross square feet, with 392 parking spaces. The project will be developed on a site of approximately 4.5 acre. This site size will accommodate possible building expansion to meet the U.S. Courts long term requirements.

The General Services Administration has prepared a Record of Decision (ROD) for the proposed project and believes that there are no outstanding issues to be resolved. Copies of the ROD are available and can be obtained from Mr. Javad Soltani, GSA, Portfolio Management (9PT), Public Building, Services, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102, at (415) 522-3493.

Ken Schreiber,

Portfolio Management (9PT), PBS, GSA, Pacific Rim Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

State Offices of Rural Health Grant Program

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration. HHS.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds.

SUMMARY: The Office of Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announces that applications are being accepted for matching grants to States for the purpose of improving health care in rural areas through the continued operation of State Offices of Rural Health. This program is authorized by section 338J of the Public Health Service Act 42 U.S.C. 254r. Awards will be made from funds appropriated under Public Law 105-78 (HHS Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1998). Approximately \$3.0 million will be available to support 50 grants in fiscal year (FY) 1998.

Background

This Federal-State partnership helps America's rural communities rebuild their health care system by supporting initiatives and partnerships in rural health development. Begun in 1991, the State Office of Rural Health Grant Program has spurred the development of State offices by providing matching funds for their creation and a forum for exchanging information and strategies

among States, providing an institutional framework that links small rural communities with State and Federal resources and developing long-term solutions to rural health problems.

Other Award Information

Grant applications should be submitted for a five-year project period. Funding will be for a single year. Continued funding is contingent upon the availability of Federal funds and satisfactory performance by the grantee. Only one grant application may be submitted from each State. It must indicate approval by a senior official of the State Health Department or their designee.

This is a renewal of an existing grant program that features a single grantee from each of the 50 States. A list of these grantees may be obtained by contacting Roberto Anson, Office of Rural Health Policy, HRSA, at (301) 443-0835.

Requesting Applications

Call the HRSA Grants Application Center at 1-888-300-4772 to request a grant application kit and program guidance for the State Office of Rural Health Grant Program (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) No. 93.913). Applications and guidance will be available following publication of this notice.

The standard application form and general instructions for completing applications (Form PHS-5161-1, OMB 0937-0189) have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget.

Deadline for Submitting Applications

Application deadline for this program is March 23, 1998. The application must be postmarked no later than March 23, 1998. Applicants should submit the signed original and two copies of the application to the: HRSA GRANTS APPLICATION CENTER, 40 West Gude Drive, Suite 100, Rockville, MD 20850.

Applications shall 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 orderly processing. 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 acceptable as proof of timely mailing. Late applications will be returned to the sender.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for technical or programmatic information should be directed to Roberto Anson, Director, State Offices of Rural Health Grant Program, Office of

Rural Health Policy, HRSA, (301) 443-0835.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

Program Objectives

The purpose of the program is to improve health care in rural areas. To receive a Federal grant, each State must agree that its State Office of Rural Health will carry out at least the following activities: (1) Establish and maintain a clearinghouse for collecting and disseminating information on rural health care issues; (2) coordinate the activities carried out in the State that relate to rural health care, including providing coordination for the purpose of avoiding duplication in such activities; (3) identify Federal, State and non-governmental programs regarding rural health, and provide technical assistance to public and nonprofit private entities regarding participation in such programs; and (4) help develop rural health policies through inter-organization collaborations and partnerships. In addition to these required activities, State Offices of Rural Health are encouraged to use Federal grant funds for activities that support, but do not directly fund, the recruitment and retention of health professionals to serve in rural areas. State Offices must also submit an annual report regarding its performance, progress and activities.

Federal funds under this grant program may not be used to: (1) Provide health care services; (2) purchase medical equipment, vehicles or real property; or (3) conduct certificate of need activities. Also, not more than 10% of grant funds may be expended on research.

Eligible Applicants

The fifty States.

The State (e.g., Department of Health, State University) can conduct the required and any discretionary activities directly or through grants or contracts to other public or nonprofit private entities (e.g., University, Area Health Education Center). To encourage States to commit their own resources, this program requires a match of three non-Federal dollars for every one Federal dollar to support the operation of their State Office of Rural Health.

Review Criteria

Grant applications will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- (1) The extent to which the application is responsive to the requirements and purposes of this Federal-State partnership program;
- (2) The extent to which the applicant has developed measurable goals,

objectives and timetable including performance and outcome measures;

(3) The extent to which the Office coordinates rural health activities within the State and collaborates with other health entities, especially the State Primary Care Organizations and Primary Care Associations;

(4) The strength of the applicant's plans for administrative and financial management of the Office; and

(5) The reasonableness of the budget proposed for the Office.

Executive Order 12372

The State Office of Rural Health Grant Program has been determined to be a program which is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372 concerning intra-governmental review of Federal programs, as implemented by 45 CFR part 100. Executive Order 12372 sets up a system for State and local government review of proposed Federal assistance applications. A current list of State Single Point of Contact (SPOCs), including their names, addresses, and telephone numbers, is included in the application kit. Not all States have SPOCs so this requirement only applies to those States with SPOCs. Applicants should contact their SPOCs as early as possible to alert them to the prospective application and receive any necessary instructions on the State process. (See part 148, Intergovernmental Review of PHS Programs under Executive Order 12372 and 45 CFR part 100 for a description of the review process and requirements.)

The OMB Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number is 93.913.

Dated: February 13, 1998.

Claude Earl Fox,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-4532 Filed 2-20-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) Meeting

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is given of a meeting of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission. The Commission will continue addressing (1.) the protection of the rights and welfare of human subjects in research including research subjects with decisional impairments and (2.) issues in tissue storage as they relate to genetic information. The meeting is open to the public and opportunities for statements by the public will be provided.

| Dates/Times | Location |
|---|---|
| March 3, 1998, 1:00 pm–5:00 pm; March 4, 1998, 8:00 am–5:30 pm. | McLean Hilton at Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102 |

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The President established the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) on October 3, 1995 by Executive Order 12975 as amended. The mission of the NBAC is to advise and make recommendations to the National Science and Technology Council, its Chair, the President and other entities on bioethical issues arising from the research on human biology and behavior, and from the applications of that research.

Public Participation

The meeting is open to the public with attendance limited by the availability of space. Members of the public who wish to present oral statements should contact Ms. Patricia Norris by telephone, fax machine, or mail as shown below prior to the meeting as soon as possible. The Chair will reserve time for presentations by persons requesting to speak. The order of speakers will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. Individuals unable to make oral presentations are encouraged to mail or fax their comments to the NBAC staff office at least five business days prior to the meeting for distribution to the Commission and inclusion in the public record. Persons needing special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other special accommodations, should contact NBAC staff at the address or telephone number listed below as soon as possible.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Patricia Norris, National Bioethics Advisory Commission, 6100 Executive Boulevard, Suite 5B01, Rockville, Maryland 20892-7508, telephone 301-402-4242, fax number 301-480-6900.

Henrietta D. Hyatt-Knorr,

Deputy Executive Director, National Bioethics Advisory Commission.

[FR Doc. 98-4385 Filed 2-20-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 96D-0235]

International Conference on Harmonisation; Guidance on Testing for Carcinogenicity of Pharmaceuticals

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is publishing a guidance entitled "S1B Testing for Carcinogenicity of Pharmaceuticals." The guidance was prepared under the auspices of the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH). The guidance outlines experimental approaches to evaluating the carcinogenic potential of pharmaceuticals to humans that may obviate the necessity for the routine conduct of two long-term rodent carcinogenicity studies.

DATES: Effective February 23, 1998.

Submit written comments at any time.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the guidance to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 12420 Parklawn Dr., rm. 1-23, Rockville, MD 20857. Copies of the guidance are available from the Drug Information Branch (HFD-210), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-4573. Single copies of the draft guidance may be obtained by mail from the Office of Communication, Training and Manufacturers Assistance (HFM-40), Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), or by calling the CBRE Voice Information System at 1-800-835-4709 or 301-827-1800. Copies may be obtained from CBRE's FAX Information System at 1-888-CBER-FAX or 301-827-3844.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Regarding the guidance: Joseph J. DeGeorge, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-24), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-594-6758.

Regarding the ICH: Janet J. Showalter, Office of Health Affairs (HFY-20), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-0864.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In recent years, many important initiatives have