

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Proposed Changes in Announcement of SAMHSA Discretionary Grant Funding Opportunities

Authority: Sections 509, 516, and 520A of the Public Health Service Act.

AGENCY: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed changes in announcement of SAMHSA discretionary grant funding opportunities.

SUMMARY: Beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2004, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) plans to change its approach to announcing and soliciting applications for its discretionary grant programs. This notice describes the proposed changes and invites public comment on those changes. This notice will be followed by proposed text for four standard grant announcements (Services Grants, Infrastructure Grants, Best Practices Planning and Implementation Grants, and Service to Science Grants). Comments are invited on the proposed standard grant announcements, as well.

DATES: Submit written comments on this proposal by October 20, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding SAMHSA's proposed changes in the announcement of discretionary grant funding opportunities to: Office of Policy, Planning and Budget, SAMHSA, Attn: Jennifer Fiedelholz by fax (301-594-6159) or e-mail (samhsa_standard_grants@samhsa.gov). Please include a phone number in your e-mail, so that SAMHSA staff may contact you if there are questions about your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Fiedelholz of the Office of Policy, Planning and Budget, SAMHSA, by fax (301-594-6159) or e-mail (samhsa_standard_grants@samhsa.gov). If you would like a SAMHSA staff person to call you about your questions, please state this in an e-mail or fax request and provide a telephone number where you can be reached between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

In recent years, SAMHSA has announced funding opportunities for 30-40 discretionary grant programs each year. Despite similarities among these programs, the program requirements

described in each grant announcement varied significantly. Some of this variation was necessary due to differences in program

to provide substance abuse and mental health services for homeless individuals, but also to link with housing and other support services needed by homeless individuals.

Applicants will need to have both the NOFA and the appropriate standard announcement to prepare their applications. Both documents will be provided, along with application materials, in the application kits available from SAMHSA's clearinghouses as well as on SAMHSA's Web site.

SAMHSA anticipates that the four standard grant announcements will be used for the majority of its grant funding opportunities. However, there will be some funding opportunities that do not fit the standard announcements. In those instances, separate stand-alone grant announcements will be published and provided to applicants as they have been in the past (*i.e.*, in the **Federal Register**, on the SAMHSA Web site, on the Federal grants Web site, and through SAMHSA's clearinghouses).

The proposed text for each of the four standard announcements and a sample NOFA are provided in separate notices that follow immediately after this notice. In particular, SAMHSA welcomes comment on the following issues:

1. Is the difference between the standard announcement and a NOFA clear?
2. Are the programmatic requirements for each standard announcement clear?
3. Are the goals/objectives for each type of standard grant clear?
4. If you are a potential applicant for a SAMHSA grant, do you believe you will be able to use the standard announcement with the NOFA to prepare your application? Will the ability to anticipate programmatic requirements improve your ability to prepare a solid application? Is the additional benefit "worth" the "cost" of having to use two different documents to prepare your application?

Note: Past applicants for SAMHSA grant programs may notice significant formatting differences between these standard announcements and previous SAMHSA grant announcements. For example, the headings for the different sections of the grant announcements have changed. These formatting differences reflect a new, mandatory outline for all Federal grant solicitations and are not related to the new approach to SAMHSA's grant announcements. These formatting changes are part of a Federal government-wide effort to make it easier for applicants to apply for Federal financial assistance. SAMHSA endorses this effort and notes that all information previously provided in SAMHSA grant announcements is provided

in the new announcements, although it may be in a different location or under a different heading.

Dated: August 13, 2003.

Anna Marsh,

Acting Executive Officer.

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