

Dated: April 3, 1998.

John P. Burke III,

*HCFA Reports Clearance Officer, HCFA,
Office of Information Services, Information
Technology Investment Management Group,
Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards.*

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA-R-118]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Department of Health and Human Services, has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the following proposal for the collection of information. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Type of Information Collection Request: Reinstatement Without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired; **Title of Information Collection:** Peer Review Organization Contracts; Solicitation Statements of Interest from In-State Organizations, General Notice and Supporting Regulations 42 CFR 462.102, .103, .104; **Form No.:** HCFA-R-118, OMB #0938-0526; **Use:** This notice is a solicitation of sources sought for the procurement of medical review services. This information is required for potential contractors to demonstrate that they meet the statutory requirements as a Peer Review Organization.; **Frequency:** On occasion; **Affected Public:** Business or other for-profit; **Number of Respondents:** 53; **Total Annual Responses:** 53; **Total Annual Hours:** 1.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, or E-mail your request, including your address and phone number, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 30 days of this notice directly to the OMB Desk Officer designated at the following address: OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch,

Attention: Allison Eydt, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: April 9, 1998.

John P. Burke III,

*HCFA Reports Clearance Officer, HCFA,
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Fiscal Year (FY) 1998 Funding Opportunities

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

ACTION: Notice of funding availability.

SUMMARY: The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) announces the availability of FY 1998 funds for grants for the following activity. This activity is discussed in more detail under Section 4 of this notice. This notice is not a complete description of the activity; potential applicants *must* obtain a copy of the Guidance for Applicants (GFA) before preparing an application.

Activity	Application deadline	Estimated funds avail- able	Estimated No. of awards	Project period
Targeted Capacity Expansion	6/19/98	\$18M	40-50	3 yrs.

Note: SAMHSA also published notices of available funding opportunities for FY 1998 in the **Federal Register** on January 6, 1998, January 20, 1998, February 26, 1998, March 20, 1998, April 8, 1998, and on April 16, 1998.

The actual amount available for awards and their allocation may vary, depending on unanticipated program requirements and the volume and quality of applications. Awards are usually made for grant periods from one to three years in duration. FY 1998 funds for activities discussed in this announcement were appropriated by the Congress under Pub. L. No. 105-78. SAMHSA's policies and procedures for peer review and Advisory Council review of grant and cooperative agreement applications were published in the **Federal Register** (Vol. 58, No. 126) on July 2, 1993.

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 for setting priority areas. The SAMHSA Centers' substance abuse and mental health services activities address issues related to Healthy People 2000 objectives of Mental Health and Mental Disorders; Alcohol and Other Drugs; Clinical Preventive Services; HIV Infection; and Surveillance and Data Systems. Potential applicants may obtain a copy of Healthy People 2000 (Full Report: Stock No. 017-001-00474-0) or Summary Report: Stock No. 017-001-00473-1) through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325 (Telephone: 202-512-1800).

General Instructions

Applicants must use application form PHS 5161-1 (Rev. 5/96; OMB No. 0937-0189). The application kit contains the GFA (complete programmatic guidance and instructions for preparing and submitting applications), the PHS 5161-1 which includes Standard Form 424 (Face Page), and other documentation and forms. Application kits may be obtained from the organization specified for each activity covered by this notice (see Section 4).

When requesting an application kit, the applicant must specify the particular activity for which detailed information is desired. This is to ensure receipt of all necessary forms and information, including any specific program review and award criteria.

The PHS 5161-1 application form and the full text of each of the activities (i.e., the GFA) described in Section 4 are available electronically via SAMHSA's World Wide Web Home Page (address: <http://www.samhsa.gov>).

Application Submission

Unless otherwise stated in the GFA, applications must be submitted to: SAMHSA Programs, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, Suite 1040, 6701 Rockledge Drive MSC-7710, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7710*.

(* Applicants who wish to use express mail or courier service should change the zip code to 20817.)

APPLICATION DEADLINES: The deadlines for receipt of applications are listed in the table above. Please note that the deadlines may differ for the individual activities.

Competing applications must be received by the indicated receipt dates to be accepted for review. An application received after the deadline may be acceptable if it carries a legible proof-of-mailing date assigned by the carrier and that date is not later than one week prior to the deadline date. Private metered postmarks are not acceptable as proof of timely mailing.

Applications received after the deadline date and those sent to an address other than the address specified above will be returned to the applicant without review.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for activity-specific technical information should be directed to the program contact person identified for each activity covered by this notice (see Section 4).

Requests for information concerning business management issues should be directed to the grants management contact person identified for each activity covered by this notice (see Section 4).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To facilitate the use of this Notice of Funding Availability, information has been organized as outlined in the Table of Contents below. For each activity, the following information is provided:

- Application Deadline
- Purpose
- Priorities
- Eligible Applicants
- Grants/Cooperative Agreements/

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• Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number

- Contacts
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1. Program Background and Objectives

SAMHSA's mission within the Nation's health system is to improve the quality and availability of prevention, early intervention, treatment, and rehabilitation services for substance abuse and mental illnesses, including co-occurring disorders, in order to improve health and reduce illness, death, disability, and cost to society.

Reinventing government, with its emphases on redefining the role of Federal agencies and on improving customer service, has provided SAMHSA with a welcome opportunity to examine carefully its programs and activities. As a result of that process, SAMHSA moved assertively to create a renewed and strategic emphasis on using its resources to generate knowledge about ways to improve the prevention and treatment of substance abuse and mental illness and to work with State and local governments as well as providers, families, and consumers to effectively use that knowledge in everyday practice.

SAMHSA's FY 1998 Knowledge Development and Application (KD&A) agenda is the outcome of a process whereby providers, services researchers, consumers, National Advisory Council members and other interested persons participated in special meetings or responded to calls for suggestions and reactions. From this input, each SAMHSA Center developed a "menu" of suggested topics. The topics were discussed jointly and an agency agenda of critical topics was agreed to. The selection of topics depended heavily on policy importance and on the existence of adequate research and practitioner experience on which to base studies. While SAMHSA's FY 1998 KD&A programs will sometimes involve the evaluation of some delivery of services, they are services studies and application activities, not merely evaluation, since they are aimed at answering policy-relevant questions and putting that knowledge to use.

SAMHSA differs from other agencies in focusing on needed information at the services delivery level, and in its

question-focus. Dissemination and application are integral, major features of the programs. SAMHSA believes that it is important to get the information into the hands of the public, providers, and systems administrators as effectively as possible. Technical assistance, training, preparation of special materials will be used, in addition to normal communications means.

SAMHSA also continues to fund legislatively-mandated services programs for which funds are appropriated.

2. Special Concerns

SAMHSA's legislatively-mandated services programs do provide funds for mental health and/or substance abuse treatment and prevention services. However, SAMHSA's KD&A activities do not provide funds for mental health and/or substance abuse treatment and prevention services except sometimes for costs required by the particular activity's study design. Applicants are required to propose true knowledge application or knowledge development and application projects. Applications seeking funding for services projects under a KD&A activity will be considered nonresponsive.

Applications that are incomplete or nonresponsive to the GFA will be returned to the applicant without further consideration.

3. Criteria for Review and Funding

Consistent with the statutory mandate for SAMHSA to support activities that will improve the provision of treatment, prevention and related services, including the development of national mental health and substance abuse goals and model programs, competing applications requesting funding under the specific project activities in Section 4 will be reviewed for technical merit in accordance with established PHS/SAMHSA peer review procedures.

3.1 General Review Criteria

As published in the **Federal Register** on July 2, 1993 (Vol. 58, No. 126), SAMHSA's "Peer Review and Advisory Council Review of Grant and Cooperative Agreement Applications and Contract Proposals," peer review groups will take into account, among other factors as may be specified in the application guidance materials, the following general criteria:

- Potential significance of the proposed project;
- Appropriateness of the applicant's proposed objectives to the goals of the specific program;

- Adequacy and appropriateness of the proposed approach and activities;
- Adequacy of available resources, such as facilities and equipment;
- Qualifications and experience of the applicant organization, the project director, and other key personnel; and
- Reasonableness of the proposed budget.

3.2 Funding Criteria for Scored Applications

Applications will be considered for funding on the basis of their overall technical merit as determined through the peer review group and the appropriate National Advisory Council (if applicable) review process.

- Other funding criteria will include:
- Availability of funds.

Additional funding criteria specific to the programmatic activity may be included in the application guidance materials.

4. Special FY 1998 SAMHSA Activities

4.1 Grants

4.1.1 Grants to Expand Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity in Targeted Areas of Need (Short Title: Targeted Capacity Expansion, GFA No. TI 98-006)

- Application Deadline: June 19, 1998.
- Purpose: The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), announces the availability of funds for grants to address gaps in treatment capacity by supporting rapid and strategic responses to demand for substance abuse (including alcohol and drugs) treatment services. The response to treatment capacity problems may include communities with serious, emerging drug problems as well as communities with innovative solutions to unmet need. The goal of this program is to create or expand a community's or cluster of communities' ability to provide an integrated creative and community-based response to a targeted, well documented substance abuse treatment capacity problem. SAMHSA/CSAT believe that the accomplishment of this goal requires that applications be submitted by the political entities that are responsible for the funding or provision of services in the targeted area. Applicants may either apply to expand an existing treatment program or create a new program. The proposed treatment services should be based on sound, scientifically-based theory or empirical evidence of effectiveness. Further, the services should be designed to significantly

impact the identified treatment gap issue within the three year grant period and a plan for continuation of the effort beyond the life of the grant should be presented if such continuation is expected to be necessary. Finally, the proposed services should be consistent with and fit within the overall response to substance abuse problems in the target area.

SAMHSA/CSAT encourages applications from a wide variety of sources including: Local governmental entities such as cities, towns, counties, and; regional governmental entities; and States, Territories, and Indian Tribal Governments. SAMHSA is also interested in applications in which several jurisdictions propose to work together to address an emerging or previously emerged need that cuts across their geographical boundaries. Finally, SAMHSA is interested in applications in which the proposed services are embedded within an integrated, creative and community-based response to substance abuse problems.

- Priorities: None.
- Eligible Applicants: Applications may be submitted by units of State, local (including cities, towns, or counties), or Indian Tribal Governments. Eligibility is being limited to units of government in recognition of the primacy of their responsibility for, and interest in, providing for the needs of their citizens and because the success of the program will depend upon the authority and ability available to units of government to broadly coordinate the variety of other resources necessary to full program success.

Applications covering more than one unit of government at the same or different levels must be submitted by one agency which would be the grantee on behalf of all participating units and be accompanied by letters of endorsement from the heads of the other participating units.

- Grants/Amounts: Approximately \$18 million will be available to support awards under this GFA in FY 1998. Awards are expected to range in amount from \$100,000 to \$750,000 in total (direct plus indirect) costs. It is planned that these funds will be reserved in three pools based on the size of the population in the geographical area to be served (as opposed to the population in need of services). For example, if the State applied on behalf of a rural community, it would be the population of that community, not the State population or the estimated number of persons needing services, that would determine the appropriate funding pool. Indian Tribal Governments will be

included in one of the pools without regard to the size of population to be served. Only after applicants with acceptable technical merit scores in the first two pools have been funded will any amount in excess from those two pools be distributed to the third pool. The three pools are:

\$3 million is reserved for rural projects serving areas with populations of 30,000 or fewer people and projects proposed by Indian Tribal Governments;

\$3 million is reserved for projects serving areas with populations of 30,000 or fewer people whether urban or rural; and

\$12 million is reserved for projects serving areas with populations of more than 30,000 (of this amount a minimum of \$2 million is reserved for cities with a population of more than 30,000).

- Catalog of Domestic Federal Assistance: 93.230
- Program Contact: For programmatic or technical assistance (not for application kits) contact: Jane Taylor, Ph.D., Director, Division of Practice and Systems Development Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, SAMHSA, Rockwall II, 8th Floor, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, (301) 443-3820.
- For grants management assistance, contact: Ms. Andrea Brandon, Division of Grants Management, OPS, SAMHSA, Rockwall II, Suite 360, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, (301) 443-9667.
- Application Kits are available from: National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information, P.O. Box 2345, Rockville, Maryland 20847-2345, 1-800-729-6686.

5. Public Health System Reporting Requirements

The Public Health System Impact Statement (PHSIS) is intended to keep State and local health officials apprised of proposed health services grant and cooperative agreement applications submitted by community-based nongovernmental organizations within their jurisdictions.

Community-based nongovernmental service providers who are not transmitting their applications through the State must submit a PHSIS to the head(s) of the appropriate State and local health agencies in the area(s) to be affected not later than the pertinent receipt date for applications. This PHSIS consists of the following information:

- a. A copy of the face page of the application (Standard form 424).
- b. A summary of the project (PHSIS), not to exceed one page, which provides:

(1) A description of the population to be served.

(2) A summary of the services to be provided.

(3) A description of the coordination planned with the appropriate State or local health agencies.

State and local governments and Indian Tribal Authority applicants are not subject to the Public Health System Reporting Requirements.

Application guidance materials will specify if a particular FY 1998 activity described above is/is not subject to the Public Health System Reporting Requirements.

6. PHS Non-use of Tobacco Policy Statement

The PHS strongly encourages all grant and contract recipients to provide a smoke-free workplace and promote the non-use of all tobacco products. In addition, Pub. L. 103-227, the Pro-Children Act of 1994, prohibits smoking in certain facilities (or in some cases, any portion of a facility) in which regular or routine education, library, day care, health care, or early childhood development services are provided to children. This is consistent with the PHS mission to protect and advance the physical and mental health of the American people.

7. Executive Order 12372

Applications submitted in response to all FY 1998 activities listed above are subject to the intergovernmental review requirements of Executive Order 12372, as implemented through DHHS regulations at 45 CFR part 100. E.O. 12372 sets up a system for State and local government review of applications for Federal financial assistance. Applicants (other than Federally recognized Indian tribal governments) should contact the State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) as early as possible to alert them to the prospective application(s) and to receive any necessary instructions on the State's review process. For proposed projects serving more than one State, the applicant is advised to contact the SPOC of each affected State. A current listing of SPOCs is included in the application guidance materials. The SPOC should send any State review process recommendations directly to: Office of Extramural Activities Review, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Parklawn Building, Room 17-89, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

The due date for State review process recommendations is no later than 60 days after the specified deadline date for the receipt of applications. SAMHSA

does not guarantee to accommodate or explain SPOC comments that are received after the 60-day cut-off.

Dated: April 14, 1998.

Patricia S. Bransford,

Acting Executive Officer, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Extension of Comment Period for Availability of an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of Application for Incidental Take Permit for the City of Austin for the Operation and Maintenance of Barton Springs Pool and Adjacent Springs

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior

ACTION: Notice: extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides notice that the public comment period is extended for a Section 10(a)(1)(B) permit. The City of Austin has applied to the Service for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The applicant has been assigned permit number PRT-839031. The requested permit, which is for a period of 15 years, would authorize incidental take of the endangered Barton Springs salamander (*Eurycea sosorum*). The proposed take would occur as a result of the operation and maintenance of Barton Springs Pool and adjacent springs in Austin, Travis County, Texas.

The City of Austin has prepared the Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the incidental take application. Neither a determination of whether jeopardy to the species is likely to occur, nor a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be made before April 30, 1998. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the application should be received on or before April 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by writing to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Persons wishing to review the EA/HCP

may obtain a copy by contacting Matthew Lechner, Austin Ecological Services Field Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512-490-0057). Documents will be available for public inspection by written request, by appointment only, during normal business hours (7:30 to 4:30) at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Ecological Services Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512-490-0057). Written data or comments concerning the application and EA/HCP should be submitted to the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office, Austin, Texas (see address above). Please refer to permit number PRT-839031 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew Lechner at the above Austin Field Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of threatened and endangered species such as the Barton Springs salamander. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take threatened or endangered wildlife species when such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22.

Applicant: The City of Austin plans to operate Barton Springs pool and the adjacent springs in Austin, Travis County, Texas. This action may cause the incidental take of less than 20 salamanders per year for the 15-year term of the permit. The applicant proposed to minimize and mitigate for the incidental take of the Barton Springs salamander by placing 10 percent of the total revenues generated at Barton Springs Pool into a conservation fund. The fund would be used for enhancing habitat and for ecological and biological research on the included habitat conservation plan. In addition, mitigation measures are included in the Habitat Conservation Plan.

Nancy M. Kaufman,

Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Technology Transfer Act of 1986

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Interior.