

# Briefly...

## Information on the Office of Adolescent Health's New Funding Opportunity Announcement Tier 1: Replicating Evidence-Based Programs

On April 1, the Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the availability of \$75 million for cooperative agreements to replicate evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs. The Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ophs/oah/prevention/grants/announcements/index.html>. Other supporting materials, including Frequently Asked Questions and the application kit, are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ophs/oah>.

A second funding announcement for up to \$35 million in competitive grants for innovative strategies and promising programs to reduce teen pregnancy was released on April 8, 2010. (This funding announcement is available at [http://www.hhs.gov/ophs/oah/prevention/grants/announcements/tpp\\_tier\\_2/foa\\_tpp\\_tier\\_2.pdf](http://www.hhs.gov/ophs/oah/prevention/grants/announcements/tpp_tier_2/foa_tpp_tier_2.pdf), and The National Campaign will provide additional materials about the Tier 2/Innovative Strategies FOA in due course).

Through a competitive process, the Office of Adolescent Health expects to award up to 150 cooperative agreements for effective curriculum-based programs and youth development programs to reduce teen pregnancy. Awards will range from \$400,000 to \$4,000,000 annually and will be made for a five-year period. Grantees will be selected by September 2010.

Below, you will find answers to some basic questions about the FOA, along with a reference to the pages within the document where you can find further information on the specific topic. This document is meant to serve as a tool to help interested applicants navigate the funding announcement, and does not interpret the guidelines in the funding announcement in any way.

### Who is eligible to apply for these grants?

The funding announcement lists a wide range of organizations that are eligible to apply for the grants, including non-profits, for-profit organizations, faith- and community-based organizations, tribes, state and local governments (including the District of Columbia and U.S. territories), and bona fide agents of state and local

governments (in general, a public entity within a state working on behalf of the state, including a school district).

For a full list of eligible entities, see **pages 15 and 16** of the FOA ("III. Eligibility Information").

### When is the deadline for applications?

If your organization or agency is applying to replicate a program from the list in Appendix A, hard copy applications should be submitted by June 1, 2010 at 5:00 PM ET. Electronic submissions must be received by June 1, 2010 at 11:00 PM ET. More information on submitting applications can be found on **pages 3 and 25-28** of the funding announcement.

Organizations applying to replicate a program that is not on the list in Appendix A have a different, earlier deadline – May 17, 2010 (see below).

Organizations are encouraged to submit a letter of intent by May 3, 2010 at 5:00 PM ET, but this is not required. More information about this is on **pages 3 and 17** of the funding announcement.

### What is the target population for these projects?

Youth served through these projects should be ages 19 or younger when the program begins, including pre-teens. Applicants are also encouraged to provide services to priority populations of youth based on clearly defined needs supported by data, such as youth in foster care, urban/rural settings, and racial or ethnic groups. According to **page 9** of the funding announcement, "Applicants should clearly define target population by age groups or priority populations within a defined geographic area with high teen birth rates."

### What programs can organizations apply to replicate?

The OAH has identified 28 evidence-based programs that applicants can apply to replicate. The full list of programs is in **Appendix**

**A of the funding announcement (page 38).** The OAH also has a list of these programs with links to descriptions of the programs and information on how to obtain them at <http://www.hhs.gov/ophs/oah/prevention/research/programs/index.html>. The following programs are eligible for funding:

- Aban Aya Youth Project
- Adult Identity Mentoring (Project AIM)
- All4You!
- Assisting in Rehabilitating Kids (ARK)
- Be Proud! Be Responsible!
- Be Proud! Be Responsible! Be Protective!
- Becoming a Responsible Teen (BART)
- Children’s Aid Society (CAS)—Carrera Program
- Comprehensive Abstinence and Safer Sex Intervention
- ¡Cuídate!
- Draw the Line/Respect the Line
- FOCUS
- HIV Risk Reduction Among Detained Adolescents
- Horizons
- It’s Your Game: Keep it Real
- Making a Difference!
- Making Proud Choices!
- Promoting Health Among Teens!
- Project TALC
- Reducing the Risk
- Rikers Health Advocacy Program (RHAP)
- Safer Sex
- Seattle Social Development Project
- SiHLE
- Sisters Saving Sisters
- Teen Health Project
- Teen Outreach Program
- What Could You Do?

This list includes a wide variety of programs that can be implemented in a variety of settings such as classrooms, afterschool programs, and even clinics. Several programs focus on abstinence as a way to prevent teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and others focus on improving contraceptive use among sexually active teens. Many of the programs were developed specifically for youth at greatest risk of teen pregnancy, such as youth in alternative schools and juvenile detention facilities.

The National Campaign has also produced a fact sheet to further categorize these programs and provide some information about their content and how and where they can be implemented. See *Briefly - Types of Programs Funded through the Office of Adolescent*

*Health Funding Announcement* at [http://www.TheNationalCampaign.org/resources/pdf/Briefly\\_OAH\\_Funded\\_Programs.pdf](http://www.TheNationalCampaign.org/resources/pdf/Briefly_OAH_Funded_Programs.pdf).

### **How were these programs chosen?**

The OAH identified the 28 evidence-based programs in **Appendix A (page 38)** of the funding announcement through an independent, thorough review process conducted by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

Mathematica identified more than 1,000 studies that examined this topic, and screened them for inclusion in the review. According to the OAH website, studies that met the following four criteria were included in the review and subjected to further assessment on the quality of the research design and the program effects that were measured:

- “Examine the impacts of an intervention using quantitative data and statistical analysis and hypothesis testing.
- Focus on impacts on at least one measure of sexual risk behavior or its health consequences.
- Focus on United States youth ages 19 or younger at the start of a program.
- Have been conducted or published since 1989.”

For more information on these criteria, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/ophs/oah/prevention/research/review/screen/index.html>.

The nearly 200 studies that meet the screening criteria were then assessed for quality based on five categories: study design, attrition, baseline equivalence, reassignment, and confounding factors. Those rated with high and moderate quality research designs were examined for the effects that those interventions had on the youth in the study. The 28 programs that met the following criteria were included on the list of programs eligible for the funding from OAH:

- “Evidence of a positive, statistically significant impact on at least one of the following outcomes:
  - Sexual activity (initiation; frequency; rates of vaginal, oral and/or anal sex; number of sexual partners)
  - Contraceptive use (consistency of use or one-time use, for either condoms or another contraceptive method)
  - STIs
  - Pregnancy or birth
- A positive, statistically significant impact for either the full analytic sample or a subgroup defined by (1) gender or (2) sexual experience at baseline.”

The review process was overseen by an interagency workgroup at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services made up of personnel from the Administration for Children and Families, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, and the Office of Public Health and Science. Visit <http://www.hhs.gov/ophs/oah/prevention/research/review/index.html> to view the database of programs that Mathematica reviewed as part of this process.

### **Is it possible to apply to replicate a program that's not in Appendix A?**

Yes. Applicants who wish to do so must meet four criteria, according to **pages 6 and 7** of the funding announcement:

1. The research or evaluation of the program model that the applicant seeks to replicate was not previously reviewed by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
2. There is research on or evaluations of the program model that meet the screening and evidence criteria used by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR) as described on <http://www.hhs.gov/ophs/oah>.
3. The application must include all relevant research and evaluation information.
4. The application must be submitted by— May 17, 2010 to provide for the time that will be needed to review the evidence submitted.

### **How much will the awards be?**

The OAH expects to fund up to 150 projects in four different funding ranges:

- Range A: \$400,000 to \$600,000 per year
- Range B: \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 per year
- Range C: \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 per year
- Range D: \$1,500,000 to \$4,000,000 per year

Applicants must specify in their applications the funding range for which they are applying. All applicants in funding ranges C and D are expected to include a plan for rigorous evaluation of their program in the proposals they submit, and the OAH strongly suggests dedicating 20 to 25 percent of each year's proposed budget to evaluation activities. The OAH expects to fund up to 10 projects in the largest funding range (D).

For more information, see **pages 8 – 9, 11-12, 13-15, and 22-23** of the funding announcement.

### **Are applicants allowed to propose any adaptations to the programs on the list?**

Applicants are required to replicate the program they choose with fidelity (as defined in **Appendix E on page 44** of the funding announcement). On **page 7** of the funding announcement, a few common adaptations that applicants would be allowed to propose are listed. These include changing names and details in role play activities, updating outdated statistics, or tailoring activities to youth culture and appropriate development level for the population with which an applicant is working. Applicants are also allowed to propose changes to ensure that the program is culturally and linguistically appropriate for the population they propose serving. Applicants interested in making significant changes to a curriculum should apply under Tier 2, the \$25 million for innovative strategies and promising programs once that funding announcement is released.

Applicants are allowed to propose adding components to a curriculum, including health services (**page 12**), as long as they are related to the underlying curriculum and the applicant has a rational basis for doing so.

All proposed adaptations are subject to approval by the OAH before the changes are put in place. For more information on adaptation see **pages 7-8 and 12** of the funding announcement.

### **What kind of evaluation is required for funded projects?**

All grantees must agree to participate in a large-scale evaluation of selected funded sites to be conducted by the federal government. All grantees will also be expected to report on their progress through performance measures.

All applicants in funding ranges C and D are expected to include a plan for rigorous evaluation of their program in the proposals they submit, and the OAH strongly suggests dedicating 20 to 25 percent of each year's proposed budget to evaluation activities. Applicants should submit a plan for an independent, experimental evaluation (or a strong quasi-experimental design if randomization is not possible), along with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and curriculum vitae for the independent evaluator.

Appendix C of the funding announcement provides extensive details about what evaluations should entail. Also, see **pages 11 and 22-23** for details on evaluation and performance measurement.

## How will proposals be evaluated?

Proposals will be evaluated based on five review criteria:

- Project Approach and Work Plan – 35 points
- Organizational Capacity and Experience – 25 points
- Project Management and Staffing – 15 points
- Evaluation Plan and Performance Measurement (including the independent evaluation plan for applicants to ranges C and D) – 15 points
- Budget (including the allotment of 20 to 25 percent of the budget for rigorous evaluation for applicants in ranges C and D) – 10 points

Applications will first be screened for “responsiveness,” or to make sure that the proposal meets all of the requirements set forth and responds to all the points in the funding announcement. Applications that meet the responsiveness and screening criteria will undergo review on a nationwide basis by an Objective Review Committee, which may include peer reviewers and federal government personnel. Final decisions will be made by the Director of the Office of Adolescent Health.

For more details on these categories and the review and selection process, please see **pages 29-32** of the funding announcement.

## Is a match required?

There is no match or cost sharing requirement for this funding (**page 22 of the funding announcement**). Applicants are encouraged to indicate partnerships they have with organizations in their communities in their proposals, including MOUs with groups who will be substantially involved in the projects. These materials will strengthen the application and demonstrate community support for the proposed project. More information on collaborating with other organizations is available on **pages 21-22** of the funding announcement.

## Who is the contact for more questions about the funding announcement?

You can direct questions about the funding announcement to Allison Roper at the Office of Adolescent Health, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 700, Rockville, MD 20852, (240) 453-2806, [oah.gov@hhs.gov](mailto:oah.gov@hhs.gov) (contact information on **page 36** of the funding announcement).

Questions about administrative issues and budget requirements can be directed to Karen Campbell, Director, OPHS Grants Management Office, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 550, Rockville, MD 20852, (240) 453-8822, [karen.campbell@hhs.gov](mailto:karen.campbell@hhs.gov) (**page 36**).