



## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

## Health Professions Programs

### **Script: Residency Training in Dental Public Health Conference Call**

August 18, 2009

Good afternoon and thank you for taking my call this afternoon. My name is Nawraz Shawir. John Kress and I are the coordinators for the Residency Training in Dental Public Health Grant Program (DPH).

The purpose of today's call is to provide you with some basic information about your opportunity to receive DPH funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which we'll refer to as "ARRA" or "Recovery Act." On July 28 Secretary Sebelius announced the availability of nearly \$200 million dollars to support grants, loans, loan repayments, and scholarships to expand the training of health care professionals. These funds are part of that announcement.

To let you know about the format for the call: We will spend approximately 30 minutes providing some basic information about ARRA, including important information on reporting requirements. This will be followed by specific information on next steps – what information we need from you, and when and how we will obtain that information. The remaining time will be open for you to ask questions. While we are talking, please write down your questions, as there will be time to go over them when we are done.

Also on the phone with me today are Marcia Starbecker to help answer your questions. I'd now like to turn this call over to Marcia Starbecker.

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Thank you, Nawraz. To begin, I'll start off by describing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Recovery Act was signed into law on February 17, 2009, and provides \$500 million dollars to address health professions workforce shortages. Of that amount, \$300 million supports the expansion of the National Health Service Corps. As Nawraz mentioned earlier, the remaining \$200 million dollars supports grants, loans, loan repayments, and scholarships to expand the training of health care professionals. The funds target a variety of health professions training programs that will strengthen the health workforce. You can refer to our website at *BHPR-dot-HRSA-dot-Gov-backslash-recovery* for more specific information.

As you know, the Residency Training in Dental Public Health Grant Program (DPH) provides Federal support to promote postgraduate education of dentists in dental public health. Grant funding assists eligible entities to: 1) plan and develop new training programs and maintain or improve existing residency training programs, and 2) provide financial assistance to residency trainees enrolled in such programs.

Approximately \$811,000 dollars in ARRA funds will be used this fiscal year to address health professions workforce shortages under the Residency Training in Dental Public Health Grant Program.

We are pleased to tell you that your institution has the opportunity to receive ARRA funding under the Residency Training in Dental Public Health program this year. You applied for a competitive grant earlier this year, under funding opportunity HRSA-09-200. Although your application was reviewed favorably, it remained unfunded because there were insufficient funds available under the regular appropriation. However, we are now in a position to offer ARRA-DPH funding to your institution. These funds will be provided under a new activity code and grant number.

Should you decide to accept ARRA- DPH funding, your institution will receive a Notice of Grant Award announcing the funds awarded to your institution. We want to be sure, however, that your institution is interested, and will adhere to the additional reporting requirements stipulated by ARRA. Since you applied late in 2008, we also want to assure that there have been no major changes to your application since then.

ARRA- DPH grantees will be required to comply with specific Recovery Act reporting. ARRA tracking and reporting must be separate to meet the reporting requirements of the Recovery Act, and grantees will be required to provide quarterly reports on programmatic progress on these grants. The first report for ARRA- DPH will be due October 10, and will include reporting on the total amount of Recovery Act funds received and obligated, a detailed list and description of how funds were obligated and expended, and an estimate of the number of jobs created (students and/or graduates) and the number of jobs (students and/or graduates) retained by the project or activity. Additional information will be available on the Federal reporting-dot-gov website. We will provide more specific information after the awards have been made.

Regarding funding, we anticipate that the budget and project periods for the DPH awards will begin in the next few weeks. These funds will be available for a three-year budget and project period. Although three years of funding will be provided upon award, it is expected that funds will be used in accordance with stated project timelines and goals. Responsible use of funds will be further outlined on the Notice of Grant Award under Terms and Conditions. These funds should be considered as one-time funding.

In addition to the standard terms and conditions of award, recipients receiving funds under Division A of ARRA must abide by the terms and conditions set out in the Act. They can be found on the *HHS-dot-gov-backslash-recovery* website. To summarize, the terms include the requirements to separately identify to sub-recipients that these are ARRA funds, that grantees must maintain records that adequately identify the source and application of Recovery Act funds, that grantees must report quarterly on the use of the funds at *FederalReporting-dot-gov*, and that grantees must maintain a DUNS Number and current registration in the Central Contractor Registry.

Due to the unique nature of this funding opportunity, after award the Bureau of Health Professions will hold a Technical Assistance call for all ARRA- DPH grantees, during which time we will go into much further detail regarding the Recovery Act reporting requirements.

As we said earlier, if you accept the ARRA funds you must comply with all reporting requirements. Prior to award we will be contacting you to ensure that your institution will adhere to the additional reporting requirements stipulated by ARRA. We also need to ensure that we have sufficient data to enable us to determine service numbers and how they relate to the dental public health specialists shortages. Later this week we will be following this call with another one, during which time the following questions will be discussed:

- (1) Whether or not your institution accepts ARRA-DPH funding. If the answer is YES, then
- (2) Do you expect to make any major changes to your application? If yes, what are those changes? Please provide both an updated Abstract and a list of those proposed changes to me by no later than 30 days from today's date. If no changes are proposed, please let me know that as well.
- (3) When do you expect being able to make awards with these funds?
- (4) How many residents will you be able to train using the ARRA-DPH funds?
- (5) How many residents will receive a portion of their training in underserved areas? To help frame the question, "Medically Underserved Areas (MUA) may be a whole county or a group of contiguous counties, a group of county or civil divisions or a group of urban census tracts in which residents have a shortage of personal health services".
- (6) How do you think that ARRA- DPH funds might increase your ability to diversify or meet a specific gap in the healthcare workforce? Please provide examples.
- (7) If you do not accept ARRA-DPH funds please explain why?

Whether or not you accept ARRA-DPH funds, we would also be interested in hearing of any particularly interesting or illustrative "success stories" your institution may have to demonstrate the importance of DPH funding in addressing the Dental Public Health workforce shortage.

Let me review those questions again, to ensure everyone has written them down, and is prepared to discuss them during next weeks' phone calls:

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- (2) Do you expect to make any major changes to your application? If yes, what are those changes? Please provide both an updated Abstract and a list of those proposed changes to me by no later than 30 days from today's date. If no changes are proposed, please let me know that as well.
- (3) When do you expect being able to make awards with these funds?
- (4) How many residents will you be able to train using the ARRA-DPH funds?
- (5) How many residents will receive a portion of their training in underserved areas? To help frame the question, "Medically Underserved Areas (MUA) may be a whole county or a group of contiguous counties, a group of county or civil divisions or a group of urban census tracts in which residents have a shortage of personal health services".
- (6) How do you think that ARRA- DPH funds might increase your ability to diversify or meet a specific gap in the healthcare workforce? Please provide examples.
- (7) If you do not accept ARRA-DPH funds please explain why?

As a reminder, we would also be interested in hearing of any particularly interesting or illustrative "success stories" your institution may have to demonstrate the importance of DPH funding in addressing the Dental Public Health workforce shortage.

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We hope that this call has provided you with sufficient information with which to make a decision on whether or not your institution will accept ARRA-DPH funding. As a potential recipient of these additional funds, we are asking that your institution carefully decide whether you are willing to accept these funds, and inform us during next week's phone call.

That concludes our call. Do you have any questions at this time?

----- UPON CONCLUSION OF QUESTIONS and ANSWERS -----

Thank you. We realize that this may be a lot of information to review in a short period of time. We encourage you to visit the various Web sites we've given during this call to obtain more detailed information. We will also have Questions and Answers relating to ARRA- DPH funding posted on the HRSA website shortly.

Thank you for your time today, for your interest in the ARRA funds, and, especially, for the good that you do every day!