



GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT: AOA PAST ANNOUNCEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS) Administration on Aging Fiscal Year 1998 Program Announcement (AoA-98-2) and Application Kit

SUMMARY: The Administration on Aging (AoA) announced in the *Federal Register* of February 13, 1998 that it will hold a competition for a cooperative agreement/grant award to support a **National Center on Elder Abuse**, as authorized by Titles II and IV of the Older Americans Act, as amended (P.L. 89-73). The accompanying set of materials comprises the **application kit** for preparing and submitting a cooperative agreement/grant proposal to compete for this Center award.

This program announcement consists of two parts. *Part I* provides background information and describes the priority area, **National Center on Elder Abuse**, under which the AoA is inviting applications to be considered for funding. *Part II* describes, in detail, the process governing the consideration of Center applications for funding and provides guidance on how to prepare and submit an application.

All of the forms (Standard Form 424), Assurances, and Certifications necessary to complete the application are included following Part II. Grant awards to be made under this priority area are subject to the availability of funds.

DATE: The *deadline date* for the submission of applications is *April 20, 1998*.

ADDRESS: Application receipt point: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging, Office of Administration and Management, 330 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 4643, Washington, DC 20201, Attn: AoA-98-2.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging, Office of Elder Rights Protection, 330 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 4274, Washington, DC 20201, telephone: (202) 619-2044 or (202) 619-0556.

Part I. Background Information and Priority Area Description

A. Statutory Authority

The statutory authority for awards made under this program announcement area is contained in Titles II and IV of the Older Americans Act, (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), as amended by the Older Americans Act Amendments of 1992, Pub.L.102-375, September 30, 1992.

B. Eligible Applicants

Public and/or nonprofit agencies, organizations, and institutions are eligible to apply under this program announcement. To be considered for funding, however, Center applicants must demonstrate a proven track record of expert knowledge concerning the operation and organization of elder abuse programs at national, state, and local levels, as well as the requisite organizational capacity to carry out the activities of the Center on a national scale.

Any nonprofit organization applying under this program competition that is not now a DHHS grantee should include, with its application, Internal Revenue Service or other legally recognized documentation of its nonprofit status. A nonprofit applicant cannot be funded without proof of its status.

C. Priority Area Description

AoA is soliciting applications under this program announcement to operate a National Center on Elder Abuse. The Center is expected to serve as a resource for public and private agencies, professionals, service providers, and individuals interested in elder abuse prevention and intervention activities through development, provision, and dissemination of information, training, technical assistance, analysis, and short term research.

Several national developments have called attention to the problem of abuse of elders in the community and in their places of residence. State legislatures in all 50 states have passed some form of legislation that authorizes the state to protect and provide services to adults who are victims of neglect, physical and or psychological abuse, and financial exploitation. In more than three-quarters of the states, the services are provided through the state social service department (adult protective services); and in the remaining states, the state units on aging have the major responsibility. All of the states have implemented some type of reporting system to track the reports received.

The state and local aging and adult protective service agencies have provided, voluntarily, the state elder abuse reporting data to the American Public Welfare Association and the current AoA grantee, the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA), in numbers significant enough to reflect a national overview of the problem. In 1997, the NCEA reported an increase of 150 per cent in state elder abuse reports nationwide over a ten year period (1986 to 1996), from 117,000 reports in 1986 to 293,000 in 1996. However, because abuse and neglect is still largely hidden under the shroud of family and personal secrecy, the problem is considered to be grossly underreported. Because of this underreporting, the national prevalence or incidence of elder abuse is not known. The NCEA estimates that 2.1 million individuals (including self-neglecting older persons) were abused, neglected, or exploited in 1996.

To gain a fuller understanding of this national problem, AoA and the Administration of Children and Families jointly funded NCEA, together with its subcontractor Westat, Inc., to conduct the nation's first elder abuse incidence study. This study, scheduled for completion in 1998, will provide estimates of the national incidence of abuse, neglect and exploitation of older people in domestic settings, and information about the characteristics of domestic elder abuse victims, including self-neglecting elders.

The Center to be funded under this program announcement is expected to carry out a range of activities related to the operation of state and local elder abuse prevention and intervention programs. Such activities include, but are not limited to:

(A) Provide information to public and private agencies, professionals, service providers, and individuals interested in the subject of elder abuse, elder abuse prevention and intervention activities, state aging and adult protective service programs, state and federal legislation that impacts on elder abuse prevention and intervention programs, and recent or ongoing elder abuse research studies.

(B) Provide technical assistance to state agencies and other public and nonprofit agencies and their personnel to assist them in planning, improving, developing, and carrying out programs and activities to combat elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

(C) Disseminate information to, and provide training for, state agencies and other public and nonprofit agencies and their personnel to assist them in planning, improving, developing, and carrying out programs and activities to combat elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

(D) Conduct short term research activities.

The Center is expected to address a full range of subjects related to the operation of state and local elder abuse prevention and intervention programs. Such subjects may include, but are not limited to:

- Major issues, trends and best practices in the organizing, planning, and delivering of services by programs designated by state elder abuse laws to investigate and follow through on reports of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation;
- Major issues, trends and best practices in the organizing, planning, and delivering of services by all levels of government and by the private sector to combat elder abuse;
- Coordination of services provided by area agencies on aging with services instituted under state and local adult protective services programs;
- Coordination of state and local aging and adult protective services programs with other state and local service programs: legal, social, health, domestic violence, victim assistance, criminal justice, law enforcement, consumer protection, and medicare/medicaid fraud control;
- Improvement of state elder abuse information and reporting systems;
- Ethical issues related to provision of elder abuse prevention and intervention services;
- Education of key professionals within both the aging and adult protective services networks and such other service networks as health, criminal justice, law enforcement, victims assistance, legal assistance, and domestic violence; and
- Analyses of federal and state program issues, policies, legislative trends, regulations, and their impacts related to state and local elder abuse programs.

Public and private nonprofit organizations, institutions and agencies are eligible to apply under this priority area. As stated in Part I, Section B. Eligible Applicants of this announcement (see p.2), Center applicants must demonstrate a proven track record of expert knowledge concerning the operation and organization of elder abuse programs at national, state, and local levels, as well as the requisite organizational capacity to carry out the activities of the Center on a national scale. Thus, the Center must be able to draw upon a strong knowledge base regarding not only state aging and adult protective service programs and policies but also state and federal legislation that impacts on elder abuse prevention and intervention programs. Another critical Center resource is nationwide experience in (1) enhancing the coordination of state and local aging and adult protective services with other state and local service programs that impact on elder abuse prevention and intervention programs and (2) working with other public and private organizations (national, state, and local) active in elder abuse prevention and intervention efforts. It is expected that the Center will have a Director with an appropriate background, professional training, and expertise who shall devote a minimum of 50% of her/his time to this position.

AoA intends to fund the National Center on Elder Abuse through a cooperative agreement/grant award for an estimated project period of four (4) years. The federal share of the Center project costs is expected to be no greater than \$250,000 per year, depending upon the scale of the effort proposed by the applicant and approved by AoA.

Applications for continuation funding of the Center beyond the initial budget period will be reviewed on a non-competitive basis, subject to the availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the grantee and a determination that continued funding will be in the best interest of the Government.