

## PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

### PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTERS' SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM FOR ORAL HEALTH

**Deadline for Application: August 1, 2002**

The University of South Florida's (USF) Prevention Research Center (PRC) as the Coordinating Center for the Oral Health Network (OHN) requests from Prevention Research Centers (PRC), participating in the OHN, proposals to integrate oral health projects within ongoing PRC research. Five awards were granted for fiscal year (FY) 1999-2000 in the amount of \$12,500. Three awards were granted for FY 2000-2001 in the amount of \$15,000.

This intramural grant program is designed to fund small grants that emphasize participatory research, multilevel and ecological research, and crosscutting research, as well as address *Healthy People 2010* oral health objectives, and the recommendations from the Surgeon General's report on oral health. The small grant application process focuses on integration of community-based oral health research into existing and ongoing PRC projects. The small grant process also provides a mechanism for pilot projects, which may strengthen future applications for private or public funding of oral health research. Such coordinated efforts will expand oral health prevention research into existing community-based research under the auspices of the PRCs. This small grant mechanism could assist in the development of preliminary data for future competitive applications for funding from CDC and other federal agencies (e.g., NIH, HRSA, AHRQ), as well as from institutional, corporate and foundation sources. A 1998 survey of the PRCs indicated that while only 5.6% of 249 projects had oral health components, 23.7% could incorporate an oral health component. These projects could create or reinforce linkages between oral health and a variety of health conditions, such as cardiovascular disease and low-birth weight infants, and behaviors, such as tobacco and alcohol use. In addition to specific diseases or conditions, oral health projects could focus on particular populations or age groups.

Projects utilizing innovative and cost-effective approaches will be most competitive. The small grants program is particularly interested in stimulating interdisciplinary research within and across PRCs. Research involving human subjects must employ a study design with gender and/or minority research representation (by age distribution, risk factors, incidence/prevalence, etc.) appropriate to the scientific objectives of the research and require IRB approval.

**Funds Available:** An applicant can request up to \$20,000 per year for a two-year project period **OR** up to \$20,000 for a one-year project. Awards will cover direct costs only. The USF PRC expects to make four awards in FY 2002/2003.

**Funding Period and Program Requirements:** The funding period will run for 12 months beginning **September 29, 2002**. To be eligible for year two continuation funds a year one report will be due May 15, 2003. A final report, not to exceed 10-double-spaced pages, highlighting all study achievements and attainment of study aims, will be due within 60 days of the project completion date. In addition, investigators will be asked to provide periodic reports in subsequent years to enable the USF PRC to track the impact of intramural grants in terms of extramural grants, publications, and presentations derived from the work supported through the intramural grants program. Investigators funded through this program will be expected to present the results of their research at scientific meetings and publish their findings in scholarly journals. All presentations and publications of work funded by the Center are expected to acknowledge the CDC's Division of Oral Health and PRC Program. Reprints of papers and abstracts resulting from the project should be provided to the USF PRC.

**Eligibility:** Principal investigators or co-investigators must be affiliated with PRCs participating in the OHN (Refer to attached list of PRCs participating in the OHN). Only one mini-grant application per PRC will be accepted for review. Each application must include a letter of support from the PRC director and further note the applicant's affiliation with the PRC, as well as, the PRC's support of the proposal. Graduate students and post-doctoral trainees may serve as co-investigators.

Preference will be given to junior faculty in the early stages of their careers who have an interest in community-based oral health research, or to senior faculty who are already established in their respective fields, but who now wish to pursue a new oral health-related research agenda at the community level. Affiliation with a PRC can be understood as the applicant having approval from the PRC Director or that the applicant is the PRC's OHN representative. Previous grant recipients can apply if projects have been successfully completed.

**Application Guidelines:** Grant application forms and guidelines will be the same as those used for NIH grant applications with the notable exception that items a-d of the research plan's narrative section may not exceed **ten** double-spaced pages. These documents may be downloaded from the following website:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>. Please note PHS 398 forms were revised as of May 2001.

**Send applications to:** Kelli McCormack Brown, Ph.D., University of South Florida, College of Public Health, MDC 56, 13201 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Tampa, FL 33612-3805. Faxed or electronic (E-mail) submissions will not be accepted.

**Format:** All materials must be typewritten, double-spaced, with 12 point font on 8.5" by 11" paper, with at least 1" margins, headers and footers, and printed on one side only. All pages must be clearly numbered. Include a complete Table of Contents for the application and any appendices. Each copy of the application should be unstapled and un-affixed, bound with rubber bands.

**Deadline:** Applicants are to **submit an original and five copies** of the application. All applications must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. (EST) August 1, 2002**. Faxed or electronic copies will not be accepted.

**Application Review:** Project proposals will be reviewed according to criteria listed below. Each application meeting the program guidelines will be reviewed on the basis of scientific merit by scholars with expertise related to the proposal. Final selection will be based on these reviews and the programmatic relevance of the proposals. Written critiques will be provided.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA: OHN SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

The relative importance and applicability of any category will differ by the focus of the research/project being solicited. Specific questions listed below within each category serve as examples of this type of information the applicant may wish to address under each category.

### 1. SIGNIFICANCE: (total 15 points)

- a) Does this study address an important community-based oral health problem?
- b) If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge of community-based oral health promotion strategies be advanced?
- c) To what extent will the results of the project increase the adoption of effective community-based programs and policies that promote oral health?

### 2. APPROACH: (total 50 points)

- a) Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of the community and cultural contexts, current community-based oral health initiatives and scientific literature/theories as well as other information sources relevant to the proposed project?
- b) Does the applicant clearly state research/project objectives and are they appropriate for the intent of the small grant project?
- c) Does the applicant propose appropriate methods that have scientific merit and relate to oral health promotion described in the small grant project request?
- d) Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?
- e) Is there an appropriate work plan and timeline included?
- f) Does the project incorporate evaluation activities, including measurement of progress toward achieving the stated objectives?
- g) Does the project include appropriate community involvement and participation, if appropriate?

**3. INNOVATION: (total 5 points)**

- a) Does the applicant propose creative research approaches (e.g., translational research), dissemination efforts, or methods to oral health promotion?

**4. INVESTIGATOR(S): (total 15 points)**

- a) Is there evidence that the applicant has demonstrated necessary knowledge, experience, and ability in implementing the proposed project?
- b) Is there evidence that the applicant has developed relationships with community members and cultivated community participation (if applicable)?

**5. ENVIRONMENT/COLLABORATIONS: (total 10 points)**

- a) Is there evidence (e.g., letters of support) that the project will be conducted through partnerships with representatives of community-based organizations, private and public sector institutions, state and local health departments, and/or academia as appropriate?
- b) Is there evidence of sufficient institutional support (e.g., space, equipment)?
- c) Is there an appropriate degree of commitment and cooperation of potential partners as evidenced by letters detailing the nature and extent of their involvement, when appropriate?

**6. TARGET POPULATION (GENDER AND MINORITIES): (total 5 points)**

The extent to which the applicant adequately describes the target population, demonstrates their availability to the project, and involves the target population for the purpose of planning to overcome potential project barriers, when appropriate. Additionally, the degree to which the applicant meets the CDC policy requirements regarding the inclusion of women, ethnic and racial groups in the proposed research. This includes: a) the proposed plan for the inclusion of both genders and racial and ethnic minority populations for appropriate representation; b) the proposed justification when representation is limited or absent; c) a statement as to whether the design of the study is adequate to measure differences when warranted; and d) a statement as to whether the plans for recruitment and outreach for study participants include the process of establishing partnerships with community(-ies) and recognition of mutual benefits.

## 7. BUDGET (Reviewed But Not Scored)

The extent to which the budget is clearly explained, adequately justified, reasonable, sufficient for the proposed project activities, and consistent with the intended use of the funding. Provide a detailed budget for year 1 with a projected budget for year 2. Use PHS 398 forms.

## 8. HUMAN SUBJECTS (Reviewed But Not Scored)

If the proposed project involves research on human subjects, the applicant must comply with the Department of Health and Human Services regulations, 45 CFR Part 46, regarding the protection of human subjects. Assurance must be provided to demonstrate the project will be subject to initial and continuing review by an appropriate institutional review board (IRB). The applicant will need to submit a copy of the IRB application and formal written IRB approval prior to receipt of funding. The final report should also have the IRB number and a written letter regarding current IRB status.

**Notification:** Applicants will be notified of the outcome by **August 1, 2002**. Questions regarding this program should be directed to the attention of Dr. Kelli McCormack Brown at the University of South Florida Prevention Research Center at 813-974-6605 or by E-mail at [kmbrown@hsc.usf.edu](mailto:kmbrown@hsc.usf.edu) or Arlene Calvo, [acalvo@hsc.usf.edu](mailto:acalvo@hsc.usf.edu).

Grant Information Available at: <http://www.hsc.usf.edu/prc/ohn-home.html>