DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

Request for Expressions of Interest ("RFEI")

A. Background
In January, 1999, the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) published a request for applications (RFA: HS--99--003, Translating Evidence into Practice (TRIP)) to conduct research related to implementing evidence-based tools and information in diverse health care settings among practitioners caring for diverse populations. Applications were sought for studies that applied innovative strategies for implementing evidence-based tools and information and would be able to demonstrate improved clinical practice and sustained practitioner behavior change.

In fiscal year 2000, AHCPR plans to publish a second research solicitation focused on translating research into practice (TRIP-II). The aim of this solicitation will be to encourage partnerships between health care systems (e.g., integrated health service delivery systems, academic health systems, managed care programs including HMOs, practice networks, etc.) and researchers to evaluate the effectiveness of different strategies for improving the quality of care. To concentrate the TRIP-II effort, we will ask partners to address at least one of the following priorities:

- The six focus areas selected by the Department of Health and Human Services in which racial and ethnic minorities experience serious disparities in health access and outcomes:
  - (a) Infant Mortality
  - (b) Cancer Screening and Management
  - (c) Cardiovascular Disease
  - (d) Diabetes
  - (e) HIV Infection/AIDS
  - (f) Immunizations
- Pediatric Asthma
- Medical Errors and Patient Safety

AHCPR has a particular interest in health systems that utilize the strengths of information systems for implementing strategies for quality improvement.

B. Purpose
The purpose of this Federal Register Notice is to identify health care systems which have begun or plan to develop programs in the above referenced areas and would be willing to partner with a research team in response to the TRIP-II solicitation. When the TRIP-II solicitation (request for applications or RFA) is published, health care systems interested in exploring partnerships with researchers will be listed in the RFA. Health care systems which have already established relationships with researchers—either internally or in academic settings—and who do not wish to be listed in the RFA itself will be eligible to apply. Health care systems which do not have existing relationships with researchers and choose not to respond to this RFEI are not precluded from responding with appropriate research partners to the TRIP-II RFA.

Along with a letter expressing interest in partnerships, we would also appreciate suggestions and ideas regarding how AHCPR can encourage meaningful partnerships between researchers and health care systems. Suggestions and ideas are welcome independent of letters expressing interest.

C. Dates
We are requesting that letters of interest be submitted no later than August 4, 1999. These letters should include:...
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Contract Review Meeting

In accordance with section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act as amended (5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), announcement is made of an Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) Technical Review Committee (TRC) meeting. This TRC’s charge is to provide review of contract proposals and recommendations to the Administrator, AHCPR, regarding the technical merit of proposals submitted in response to a Request for Proposals (RFPs) regarding “Automated Data Processing Support Services for Agency for Health Care Policy and Research”.

The RFP was published in the Commerce Business Daily on March 8, 1999.

The upcoming TRC meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), section 10(d) of 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2, implementing regulations, and procurement regulations, 41 CFR 101–6.1023 and 48 CFR section 315.604(d). The discussions at this meeting of contract proposals submitted in response to the above-referenced RFP are likely to reveal proprietary and personal information concerning individual associated with the proposals. Such information is exempt from disclosure under the above-cited FACA provision that protects the free exchange of candid views, and under the procurement rules that prevent undue interference with Committee and Department operations.

Name of TRC: The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research—“Automated Data Processing Support Services for Agency for Health Care Policy and Research”.

Date: July 8, 1999 (Closed to the public).

Place: Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, 2101 East Jefferson Street, 5th Floor Conference Room, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Contact Person: Anyone wishing to obtain information regarding this meeting should contact William Yu, Center for Cost and Financing Studies, Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, 2101 Executive Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland, 20852, 301–594–1069.

Dated: June 17, 1999.

John M. Eisenberg,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99–15865 Filed 6–21–99; 8:45 am]
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