

The Aging Network: Program Instructions

September 30, 1998

AOA-PI-98-06

TO: STATE AGENCIES ON AGING ADMINISTERING PLANS UNDER TITLE III OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT, AS AMENDED

SUBJECT: Grants to State Agencies on Aging to Enhance the Capacity of Information and Referral Services to Address Medicare+Choice

The closing date for submission of applications has been extended to: November 9, 1998.

LEGAL AND RELATED REFERENCES: Older Americans Act, as Amended (Public Law 102-375)

The Administration on Aging (AoA) invites State Agencies on Aging to apply for two(2) funding opportunities to enhance the capacity of the aging network's information and referral systems to provide accurate information and make appropriate referrals for Medicare+Choice inquiries. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 established the Medicare+Choice Program, which authorizes new Medicare health plan options for beneficiaries to choose. The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has provided AoA with funds for two important initiatives related to the National Medicare Education Program.

The Information and Referral for Medicare Beneficiaries Projects are intended to strengthen the capability of the aging network's information and referral programs to respond to inquiries regarding Medicare+Choice (M+C) State Agencies will be able to use funds to aid in training efforts and pursue other activities in support of M+C implementation. Each State may apply for an award based on a funding formula derived from Medicare beneficiary and managed care concentration data provided by HCFA. A description of the formula and a chart showing funding allocations for each state are included in the guidelines attached.

In the second funding opportunity, **Model State Projects to Develop Medicare Information and Referral Protocols and Reports**, AoA is seeking proposals from State Agencies on Aging to collect data on the number and type of M+C inquiries made to I&R providers and to develop revised protocols for handling such inquiries in subsequent years. State Agencies awarded grants under this program competition shall each receive up to \$75,000 for a one (1) year project grant. AoA expects to fund up to five projects.

I strongly encourage all state agencies on aging to apply for this funding.

DUE DATE: Due by October 30, 1998

ATTACHMENTS: Guidelines for Preparing and Submitting Grant Applications

- **The Information and Referral for Medicare Beneficiaries Projects: [Part I](#) | [Part II](#)**
- **Model State Projects to Develop Medicare Information and Referral Protocols and Reports**

INQUIRIES: Inquiries should be addressed to Regional Administrators on Aging, DHHS Regional Offices

Jeanette C. Takamura
Assistant Secretary for Aging

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