

Affordable Care Act Personal and Home Care Aide State Training (PHCAST) Program

June 30, 2010 Technical Assistance Call Summary

A taped replay of the entire TA call is available at 1-866-434-5264 until July 19, 2010. In addition, HRSA is posting responses to all questions on its website at: <http://www.hrsa.gov/grant/index.html>.

The full guidance document for this grant is available at the above website under HRSA-10-288.

I. Background

- With the passage of health care reform, demand for healthcare professionals will increase
- The federal government is making investments in states in order to help them cultivate the necessary workforce
- The purpose of this grant is to establish a “gold standard” for the training and certification of Personal and Home Care Aides
- Period will run Sept. 30, 2010 through Sept. 29, 2013
- Eligible applicants are States with the Governor having the authority to designate an appropriate state agency to administer the grant.
- Six (6) grants will be made for up to \$750,000 per year. Only one grant will be made per state.

II. Program Requirements (described in the guidance document on pg. 17 – 21)

- The primary purpose is to develop and implement core training competencies and certification programs for personal and home care aides.
- Pg. 19 of the guidance document lists the minimum competencies that must be included in the training program.
- HRSA is STRONGLY encouraging partnership/consultation with community and technical colleges.

III. Evaluation Requirements (described in the guidance document on pg. 21-22)

- An independent evaluator must be engaged in the grant and an evaluation plan must be included in the application materials.
- Applicants will also participate in a national evaluation that will be conducted by a HRSA contractor.

IV. Submission Process (described in the guidance document on pg. 23 – 27)

- The application is due on July 19th at 5pm. An extension may be offered by the Chief Grants Officer in the event of extreme circumstances (hurricane, flood, prolonged power outage)
- The application is divided into two parts:
 - Grants.gov: Standard Form 424 R&R, SF-424B, and the HHS Application Checklist
 - HRSA Electronic Handbook (EHBs): Program Specific Data submitted via HRSA Electronic Handbook (EHBs)

- There is a 40 pg. limit; charts on pg. 10 – 12 list the required forms/application materials and note which are included in this page limit.
- Submission and formatting requirements are on pg. 7 of the guidance document.

V. Resources

- Direct Care Alliance
- Bureau of Health Professionals (www.bhpr.hrsa.gov)
- U.S. Department of Labor
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Assistance with submitting the grant:
 - grants.gov call center (7AM – 9PM Mon-Fri): 1-800-518-4726
 - HRSA (9AM– 5:30PM Mon-Fri): 1-877-464-4772

VI. Questions

Karen Driven (sp?) Iowa Dept of Public Health

- Q: Can the training developed be for incumbent workers?
A: The applicant needs to identify the participant pool and provide a rationale. The primary purpose is to develop a uniform curriculum based on core competencies. In order to accurately evaluate the curriculum, new students will be needed. But projects can also use these resources to upgrade skills.
- Q: Can non-profits apply? Can for-profits apply?
A: Yes, a non-profit or a for-profit can apply as long as they are a state entity.
- Q: Does the project director need to be a licensed/credentialed nurse?
A: Yes.

Linda McCart – Wisconsin Department of Health Services

- Q: Can funding be used to develop advanced competencies?
A: You need to identify which cohort you're going to focus on and what competencies are most appropriate. Remember that this is about advancing the field for training Personal and Home Care Aides so there needs to be a clearly articulated rationale for what is included in your training.
- Q: Could our training include CNAs?
A: If you want to focus on CNAs, you might be better off looking at the recent grant Nursing Assistant and Home Health Aide program (information is available on the HRSA website).
- Q: Can funding be used for participant support?
A: You need to explain how the use of these funds will improve the training of these individuals and make the case. For budget related questions, please contact the technical assistance support available through grants.gov

Andrew ? – New York Dept of Labor

- Q: Is the target for this grant low-income individuals?
A: There is no requirement that this grant focus on a particular group. We are only holding you accountable for what is included in the grant guidance document and we do not specify in there that the population served needs to be low-income. You do need to identify what the target training group is and how you will recruit them.
- Q: Can nursing homes and unions be eligible training partners?
A: We don't get that far into the details. If a particular partner will help you meet the goals of the project, then you should make the case for including them.
- Q: Our state already has curriculum and competency standards. Should we still bother applying?
A: This may be an opportunity to improve on your curriculum and/or expand its use. The funded states will emerge as the best practices/ "gold standard" for training. (not sure I got this...)

Julie Fralich (sp?) – University of Southern Maine

- Q: Does the curriculum need to focus on one specific population that will be served (e.g., alzheimers) or can it be all-inclusive?
A: The curriculum can include a broad array – it's up to you to decide what is needed.
- Q: The purpose of the grant is to develop the curriculum yet it seems like you've already identified the content. What are we suppose to include in the grant in terms of curriculum development?
A: Expand on the content – develop the competencies. This is just one aspect of the grant. You need to include a workplan that shows how the evaluation will work, how you'll engage people in training, how you'll use information from the evaluation to make changes, etc. You need a 3 year plan to develop and implement these competencies.

Uta ? Arizona Dept of Economic Security

- Q: Do instructors need to be registered nurses?
A: You need to include the qualifications of each person included in the staffing plan. You need to make the case that they are capable and qualified to do the work.

Jack Boesen – MA

- Q: What kind of certification is required?
A: Originally, we were looking at a national standard. We have backed off from that but want something that will advance the state. Think big picture. We want to move the field but we don't want to require something that's not going to work in a specific state. Think about what competencies a PCA should have – should they be certified?

Jan Moxley – North Carolina Dept of Health and Human Services

- Q: Can you save work on the EHB?
A: You need to do this in one sitting, unlike grants.gov. A lot of the handbook is data entry.
- Q: Do we need to know who the project director will be?
A: You need to include a name for the application. If you are going to hire someone, include a name as a placeholder and indicate that on the application.