

That section of the Virginia statute requires that "[a]ll regulations promulgated herewith shall promote the purposes of this section." Because the purpose of the Funeral Rule is to increase the availability of information to consumers to improve price competition,³⁹ and because this section of the statute expressly incorporates that rule, it appears unlikely that the General Assembly intended to authorize a regulation inhibiting price competition as a foreseeable result of the Board's general authority to regulate the funeral industry.⁴⁰

V. Opportunity for Public Comment

The proposed Order has been placed on the public record for 30 days to receive comments from interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After 30 days, the Commission will again review the Agreement and comments received, and will decide whether it should withdraw from the Agreement or make final the Order contained in the Agreement.

By accepting the proposed Order subject to final approval, the Commission anticipates that the competitive issues described in the proposed Complaint will be resolved. The purpose of this analysis is to invite and facilitate public comment concerning the proposed Order. It is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the Agreement and proposed Order or to modify their terms in any way.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

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2806(19) (Michie 2003). Virginia is one of 18 states that has adopted at least part of the requirements of the Funeral Rule. AARP, *The Deathcare Industry* 7 (Public Policy Institute, May, 2000).

³⁹ See e.g., 1990 FTC Staff Report at 12; Comments of AARP on the Commission's Review of the Funeral Rule, 16 CFR Part 453 (September 14, 1999), available at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/rulemaking/funeral/comments/>. Comment A-55-AARP Funeral Rule Comments.htm. ("Certainly, one of the intended effects of implementing the Rule was to spur on competition, by making it easier for consumers to make an educated decision.").

⁴⁰ *Indiana Movers Analysis* at 5.

HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Sunshine Act Meeting: Meeting of the Trustees and Officers of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, September 24, 2004, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., U.S. Capitol, Room HC-6

I. Call to order, Welcome, Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 7, 2004;

II. Consideration of election of a Vice-President of the Truman Scholarship Foundation;

III. Adoption of a policy and implementation language for Truman Scholars Accountability;

IV. Discussion and Board Action on Proposed Three Year Trial of a Truman Fellows Program providing for a one-year professional experience in Washington following receipt of a baccalaureate degree and prior to graduate school;

V. Reauthorization of the Public Service Law Conference;

VI. Adoption of a Budget and approval of the Bulletin of Information for the 2004-2005 Year for the Foundation;

VII. Old Business;

VIII. New Business;

IX. Adjournment.

Dated: August 18, 2004.

Louis H. Blair,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-19554 Filed 8-23-04; 1:57 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Continuation of the Rabia Balkhi Hospital (RBH) Physician Training and Support Program in Afghanistan

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of intent to fund a single eligibility award.

SUMMARY: The Office of Global Health Affairs (OGHA) announces the intent to allocate fiscal year (FY) 2004 funds for a grant program for services provided by the International Medical Corps (IMC) that will allow the continuation of the Rabia Balkhi Hospital (RBH) Physician Training and Support Program in Afghanistan. The goal of the project is to reduce the maternal and infant mortality rates in Afghanistan through the training of obstetrician-gynecologists (OB-GYNS) and other health care workers at RBH. Forty percent of deaths among women of childbearing age in Afghanistan are caused by preventable complications related to childbirth, and

an estimated one in four children dies before reaching their fifth birthday.

A. Purpose

The project's main objectives include: (1) To improve the capacity of the hospital's staff to practice medicine, (2) to improve the quality of care for RBH patients. These services are expected to dramatically improve patient care and to make a substantial reduction in maternal and infant illness and deaths at the hospital.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this program is 93.003.

B. Eligible Applicant

Assistance will be provided only to International Medical Corps (IMC).

The IMC is the only organization in Afghanistan qualified to collaborate with the Office of Global Health Affairs. IMC is a global humanitarian nonprofit organization, exceptionally well-qualified, with a vast network of health facilities staffed by a dedicated cadre of health care professionals. In Afghanistan, IMC has established a strong foundation for training activities, and the ongoing provision of primary health care services to men, women, and children throughout the country. IMC supported clinics have treated more than 500,000 men, women, and children in Afghanistan since 2001. No other institution in the country has the capacity and expertise to accomplish this task.

C. Funding

Approximately \$685,000 is available in FY 2004 to fund this award. It is expected that the award will cover costs for the period February 1, 2004 through September 30, 2004. Funding estimates may change.

D. Where To Obtain Additional Information

For general comments or questions about this announcement, contact: Brian Trent, Management Operations Officer, Office of Global Health Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 18-101, Rockville, MD 20857, Telephone: 301-443-4560.

For technical questions about this program, contact: Amar Bhat, Office of Global Health Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 18-101, Rockville, MD 20857, Telephone: 301-443-1410, E-mail: abhat@osops.dhhs.gov.

Dated: August 20, 2004.

RADM Arthur J. Lawrence,

Assistant Surgeon General, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of Public Health and Science.

[FR Doc. 04-19409 Filed 8-24-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Funding Opportunity: Request for Applications for Cooperative Agreement To Provide Training Program to Physicians and Other Staff at Rabia Balkhi Women's Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan

Announcement Type: Initial.
Action: Notice.

Authority: Section 103(a)(1); Section 103(a)(7) of public law 107-327; Public Health Service Act, Section 307.

SUMMARY: The Office of Global Health Affairs (OGHA) announces that an estimated \$2.2 million in fiscal year (FY) 2004 funds are available for one (1) cooperative agreement to provide continuing education and refresher training to physicians and other staff at Rabia Balkhi Women's Hospital (RBH) in Kabul, Afghanistan. This effort is a joint undertaking by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Afghanistan Ministry of Health (MOH). The objective of this project is to improve the quality of care at RBH through the provision of continuing education and refresher training and related services to improve the knowledge base and skills of the physicians, nurses, midwives, other health care workers, and support staff at the facility. Award recipient will also conduct a comprehensive evaluation of conditions and elements necessary for the eventual implementation of an OB/GYN residency training program in Afghanistan. OGHA anticipates HHS scientific and programmatic involvement in the development and administration of the training program. The project will be approved initially for a three-year period. It is estimated that approximately \$2.2 million (including indirect costs) will be available in the first year. Funding for the cooperative agreement in subsequent years is contingent upon the availability of funds.

DATES: To receive consideration, the Grants Management Office (GMO) of the Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS) within HHS must receive applications by no later than September 15, 2004. Additionally, a letter of intent

to apply is required (*See* Section IV) no later than September 1, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Application kits may be requested from, and applications submitted to: OPHS Grants Management Office, 1101 Wootton Parkway, 5th Floor, Rockville, MD 20852.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Cooperative Agreement is governed by the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act (Pub. L. 107-327, Section 103(a)(1) and Section 103(a)(7)), and the Public Health Service Act (Section 307) and will be administered by the OGHA, HHS.

OGHA provides policy and staffing support to the Secretary and other HHS leaders in the area of global health, and provides policy advice, leadership and coordination of international health matters across HHS, including leadership on major crosscutting global health initiatives and the Department's relationships with multilateral organizations.

Under this continuing education and logistical support cooperative agreement, HHS, in coordination with the Afghanistan MOH, will support and guide award recipient's activities by working with the award recipient in an advisory role throughout the development and implementation of activities. In addition, HHS will participate actively in the evaluation of the program.

Obligations of HHS

1. Assurance of the services of appropriately experienced OGHA and other HHS personnel to participate in the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of all phases of this activity;
2. Participation in periodic meetings and/or communications with the award recipient to review mutually agreed-upon goals and objectives and to assess program development and implementation progress and, when indicated, interval evaluation;
3. Assistance in establishing and maintaining U.S. Government, Afghanistan MOH, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) contacts and agreements necessary to carry out the project.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

This announcement seeks proposals from appropriately qualified public and private not for profit entities to provide clinical, administrative, and ancillary staff continuing education and refresher training to Afghan healthcare professionals and support staff at RBH. For the purposes of this cooperative agreement, continuing education and refresher training refer to specific

training in appropriate Western clinical methodologies and techniques that are identified as critical to the knowledge and skills of attending physicians, residents, midwives, and nurses. "Residency training" refers to a sustainable training of physician specialists in obstetrics and gynecology based on accredited Western standards and modified for the Afghan situation. Funds available under this cooperative agreement will improve the quality of care at RBH by providing direct training, clinical as well as didactic, for physicians, current residents, midwives, and nurses. Clinical training will include the demonstration of direct patient care alongside Afghan healthcare providers. As a second priority, other allied health care workers such as laboratorians and pharmacy technicians, hospital administrators including facility and personnel managers, should also benefit from training. Finally, award recipient will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of all necessary conditions and elements related to the implementation of a residency training program in Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN) in Afghanistan, most likely based in Kabul and possibly involving one or more hospitals, including Rabia Balkhi Hospital. While not included as part of this proposed cooperative agreement, the ultimate goal of HHS is to support the establishment of a sustainable OB/GYN residency training program in Kabul, once conditions are appropriate for doing so. Information and insights gained through this cooperative agreement will inform subsequent programming to develop the residency program.

Background

Afghanistan has one of the highest maternal mortality rates (MMR) in the world with a rate of 1,600 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. In Badakshan Province, the MMR is 6,500, the highest maternal mortality rate ever reported globally. Preventable complications related to childbirth cause more than 85 percent of deaths among women of childbearing age in Afghanistan. An estimated one in four children dies before reaching their fifth birthday.

The Rabia Balkhi Women's Hospital (RBH) in Kabul, Afghanistan, is the largest full-service women's hospital in the country. The hospital treats more than 36,000 patients each year and delivers 14,600 babies per year, on an average, 40 babies a day. Other care services provided at RBH include gynecology, surgery, dermatology, and internal medicine.