

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Health Care Financing Administration**
[HCFA-3054-N]**Medicare Program; Renewal of the Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee (MCAC)**

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the renewal of the Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee (MCAC). The MCAC advises the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) and the Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, as requested by the Secretary, whether medical items and services are reasonable and necessary under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act. This notice announces the signing of the MCAC charter renewal by the Secretary on November 24, 2000. The charter will terminate on November 24, 2002, unless renewed by the Secretary.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Brocato-Simons, Office of Clinical Standards and Quality, HCFA, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S3-02-01, Baltimore, MD 21244, 410-786-0261, or E-mail pbrocato-simons@hcfa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

On December 14, 1998, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 68780) announcing the establishment of the Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee (MCAC). The charter for the MCAC was signed by the Secretary on November 24, 1998.

The MCAC, chartered under 42 U.S.C. 217(a), section 222 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, is governed by the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (Public Law 92-463 as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2)), which sets forth standards for the formulation and use of advisory committees.

The MCAC consists of 6 specialty panels and an executive committee (EC), with a total of 120 appointed members from authorities in clinical and administrative medicine, biologic and

physical sciences, public health administration, health care data and information management and analysis, the economics of health care, medical ethics, and other related professions. The MCAC, functioning on its panel basis, reviews and evaluates medical literature, reviews technical assessments, and examines data and information on the effectiveness and appropriateness of medical items and services that are covered or eligible for coverage under Medicare. The panels work from an agenda provided by the MCAC that lists specific issues. The panels develop technical advice to be reviewed and ratified by the EC to assist us in determining reasonable and necessary applications of medical services and technology.

II. Provisions of This Notice

This notice announces the signing of the MCAC charter renewal by the Secretary on November 24, 2000. The charter will terminate on November 24, 2002, unless renewed by the Secretary.

III. Copies of the Charter

You may obtain a copy of the Secretary's Charter for the MCAC by submitting a request to Maria Ellis, Office of Clinical Standards and Quality, Health Care Financing Administration, 7500 Security Blvd., Mail Stop S3-02-01, Baltimore, MD 21244, 410-786-0309, or E-mail the request to mellis@hcfa.gov.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.773, Medicare—Hospital Insurance; and Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: January 29, 2001.

Michael McMullan,

Acting Deputy Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

[FR Doc. 01-3121 Filed 2-6-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Health Resources and Services Administration****Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

Periodically, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

publishes abstracts of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget, in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of the clearance requests submitted to OMB for review, call the HRSA Reports Clearance Office on (301)-443-1129.

The following request has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for review under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995:

Proposed Project: The Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program Application (OMB No. 0915-0140)—Revision

This is a request for revision of the application form for the Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program (NELRP). The NELRP was originally authorized by 42 U.S.C. 297b(h) (section 836(h) of the Public Health Service Act) as amended by Pub. L. 100-607, November 4, 1988. The NELRP is currently authorized by 42 U.S.C. 297(n) (section 846 of the Public Health Service Act) as amended by Pub. L. 102-408, October 13, 1992.

Under the NELRP, registered nurses are offered the opportunity to enter into a contractual agreement with the Secretary, under which the Public Health Service agrees to repay the nurses' indebtedness for nursing education. In exchange, the nurses agree to serve for a specified period of time in certain types of health facilities identified in the statute.

Nurse educational loan repayment contracts will be approved by the Secretary for eligible nurses who have incurred previous monetary indebtedness by accepting a loan for nursing education costs from a bank, credit union, savings and loan association, Government agency or program, school, or other lender that meets NELRP criteria. Approval is requested for the application form. The application form requires information from two types of respondents:

a. Applicants must provide information on the proposed service site and on all nursing education loans for which reimbursement is requested, and

b. For those applicants accepted into the NELRP, lenders must provide information on loan status for all loans accepted for repayment.

ESTIMATES OF ANNUALIZED HOUR BURDEN

Form/regulatory requirement	Number of respondents	Responses per respondents	Hours per response	Total burden hours
NELRP Application	1,000	1	1	1,000
Loan Verification Form	50	4	.25	50

ESTIMATES OF ANNUALIZED HOUR BURDEN—Continued

Form/regulatory requirement	Number of respondents	Responses per respondents	Hours per response	Total burden hours
Total	1,050	1,050

Written comments and recommendations concerning the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of this notice to: John Morrall, Human Resources and Housing Branch, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: February 1, 2001.

Jane M. Harrison,

Director, Division of Policy Review and Coordination.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 Funding Opportunities

AGENCY: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of funding availability.

SUMMARY: The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) announces the

availability of FY 2001 funds for grants for the following activity. This notice is not a complete description of the activity; potential applicants *must* obtain a copy of the Program Announcement, including Part I, CSAP Cooperative Agreement for the Southeast Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies, and Part II, General Policies and Procedures Applicable to all SAMHSA Applications for Discretionary Grants and Cooperative Agreements, before preparing and submitting an application.

Activity	Application deadline	Est. funds FY 2001	Est. No. of awards	Project period
Cooperative Agreement for the Southeast Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies.	March 22, 2001	\$1,500,000	1	2 years

The actual amount available for the award may vary, depending on unanticipated program requirements and the number and quality of applications received. FY 2001 funds for the activity discussed in this announcement were appropriated by the Congress under Public Law 106-310. SAMHSA's policies and procedures for peer review and Advisory Council review of grant and cooperative agreement applications were published in the **Federal Register** (Vol. 58, No. 126, page 35962) on July 2, 1993.

General Instructions: Applicants must use application form PHS 5161-1 (Rev. 7/00). The application kit contains the two-part application materials (complete programmatic guidance and instructions for preparing and submitting applications), the PHS 5161-1 which includes Standard Form 424 (Face Page), and other documentation and forms. Application kits may be obtained from: National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI), P.O. Box 2345, Rockville, MD 20847-2345. Telephone: 1-800-729-6686.

The PHS 5161-1 application form and the full text of the activity are also available electronically via SAMHSA's World Wide Web Home Page: <http://www.samhsa.gov>.

When requesting an application kit, the applicant must specify the particular activity for which detailed information is desired. All information necessary to

apply, including where to submit applications and application deadline instructions, are included in the application kit.

Purpose: The cooperative agreement for SE Center for Application of Prevention Technology, number SP01-001, referred to as "The SE CAPT," solicits applications for projects that provide clients with technical assistance and training in order to apply consistently the latest research-based knowledge about effective substance abuse prevention programs, practices, and policies.

Eligible Applicants: Applications may be submitted by public and private domestic nonprofit entities such as units of State or local government, community-based organizations, universities, colleges, and hospitals. Applicants must be physically located within the National Prevention Network's Southeast Region.

Amount: CSAP is making \$1.5 million available to support one award under this GFA in FY 2001. This \$1.5 million amount may be increased using CSAP and other funds in each year of the project up to a total of \$3 million. Actual funding levels for each budget period may be significantly augmented on a discretionary basis if current exploratory talks with other federal agencies sharing our interest in substance abuse prevention result in interagency agreements transferring funds to us for this program's use. There

may be no such increases. However, under optimum conditions, substantial increases of funding in any given year are possible. Such increases would be for the purpose of providing the same services to the same clients with greater frequency or to additional clients. All potential applicants should also be aware that any expansion based on interagency agreements for this purpose will not be competed but will be limited to the applicant funded under this announcement.

Period of Support: Support may be requested for a period of up to two years. An annual award will be made subject to continued availability of funds and progress achieved.

Criteria for Review and Funding:

General Review Criteria: Competing applications requesting funding under this activity will be reviewed for technical merit in accordance with established PHS/SAMHSA peer review procedures. Review criteria that will be used by the peer review groups are specified in the application guidance material.

Award Criteria for Scored

Applications: Applications will be considered for funding on the basis of their overall technical merit as determined through the peer review group and the appropriate National Advisory Council review process.

Availability of funds will also be an award criteria. Additional award criteria specific to the programmatic activity