

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is the recipient of an annual sum of about \$4.7 million, the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant.¹ The Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)² of the Health Resources and Services Administration is the federal funding agency. The Bureau of Family Health (BFH) within KDHE administers the federal grant. As part of the federal requirements for receipt of these funds, Kansas must complete a state needs assessment every five years.

APPLICATION FOR BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

SEC. 505 [42 U.S.C. 705] (a) In order to be entitled to payments for allotments under section 502 for a fiscal year, a State must prepare and transmit to the Secretary an application (in a standardized form specified by the Secretary) that---

(1) contains a statewide needs assessment (to be conducted every 5 years) that shall identify (consistent with the health status goals and national health objectives referred to in section 501(a)) the need for---

- (A) preventive and primary care services for pregnant women, mothers, and infants up to age one;*
- (B) preventive and primary care services for children; and*
- (C) services for children with special health care needs (as specified in section 501(a)(1)(D));*

(2) includes for each fiscal year---

- (A) a plan for meeting the needs identified by the state-wide needs assessment under paragraph (1); and*
- (B) a description of how the funds allotted to the State under section 502(c) will be used for the provision and coordination of services to carry out such plan that shall include---*

- (i) subject to paragraph (3), a statement of the goals and objectives consistent with the health status goals and national health objectives referred to in section 501(a) for meeting the needs specified in the State plan described in subparagraph (A);*
- (ii) an identification of the areas and localities in the State in which services are to be provided and coordinated;*
- (iii) an identification of the types of services to be provided and the categories or characteristics of individuals to be served; and*
- (iv) information the State will collect in order to prepare reports required under section 506(a);*

The last Kansas MCH needs assessment (called MCH 2010) was submitted July, 2005 and covered the period 2006-2010 (www.kdhe.state.us/bcyf). The next needs assessment, to include priorities for the State, will be submitted July, 2010 and it will cover the period 2011-2015.

The MCH grant identifies three population groups: pregnant women and infants, children and adolescents, and children with special health care needs. The Kansas needs assessment process will identify three priorities for each of these groups to total nine (9) for the State. Health care experts for each of these population groups have been identified and invited to participate in this planning process.

Envisage Consulting will assist with this planning process.

Over a period of 6 months, there will be at least two one-day meetings with about 60 participants at each. Each of the meetings will consist of a plenary session followed by breakout sessions. During the breakout sessions, three separate groups called panels of experts (including consumers) will review data and make recommendations pertaining to their areas of expertise: pregnant women and infants, children and adolescents, and children with special health care needs.

¹ The Kansas MCH application is posted to: <https://performance.hrsa.gov/mchb/mchreports/tvisreports.asp>.

² Information regarding the MCHB is at: <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/>.