



Town Hall Meeting Conference Call

October 7, 2008 from 2-3:30 p.m. EST

Led by:

EMSC National Resource Center
8737 Colesville Road, Suite 400
Silver Spring, MD 20910
202-476-4927
www.childrensnational.org/emsc

Participating Grantees:

Katherine Hert and Ann Klasner-ALABAMA
Addie Grigsby-Roshell-ARKANSAS
Tracie Al'Belar-GEORGIA
MaryLou Loualhati-GUAM
Dwayne Lopes-HAWAII
Rachael Alter-John Cramer
Evelyn Lyons-ILLINOIS
Tres Scherer-INDIANA
Katrina Altenhofen-IOWA
Sarah House and Lori Haskett-KANSAS
Debbie Huffman-LOUISIANA
Jan Brinkman-MAINE
Deborah Clapp-MASSACHUSETTS
Kristi Berg-MINNESOTA
Ashley Adcox & Alisa H. Williams-MISSISSIPPI
Bobbi Perkins and Joe Hansen-MONTANA
Bob Heath-NEVADA
Eric Hicken-NEW JERSEY
Martha Gohlke & Marjorie Geiger-NEW YORK
Kelli Rice-NORTH DAKOTA
Wendy Pomerantz & Joe Stack -OHIO
Stacy Morton and Paul Marmen-OKLAHOMA
Philip Engle-OREGON
Wanda Arbelo-PUERTO RICO
Carol Wyatt Yarborough-SOUTH CAROLINA
Amy Marsh-SOUTH DAKOTA
Manish Shah-TEXAS
Rhonda Phillippi-TENNESSEE
Kristin Lauria Gurley- UTAH
Dan Manz-VERMONT
Scott Hogan-WASHINGTON

Deron Wilkes-WEST VIRGINIA
Carol Zorna-WYOMING

NEDARC Attendees:

Colleen Cummins, Mike Ely, Craig Hemingway, Kent Paige and Patty Schmuhl

NRC Attendees:

Karen Belli, Diana Fendya, Jocelyn Hulbert, Theresa Morrison-Quinata, Gayathri Jayawardena, and Tasmeen Singh Weik

Federal Attendees: Tina Turgel

Conference Call Discussions

POLICY UPDATE

Appropriations:

Fiscal year 2008 ended on Tuesday, September 30. Congress did not enact any of the FY2009 appropriations bills prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year, which began on Wednesday, October 1. Without an appropriations bill in place, there would not be funding for existing Federal programs such as the EMSC Program. In order to prevent government programs from shutting down as a result of lack of funding, Congress passed a continuing resolution. This measure provides temporary, level funding for existing Federal programs (\$19.54 million for the EMSC Program) until March 6, 2009 or until Congress enacts the relevant FY2009 appropriations bill. Congress has indicated they will not return to determine appropriations until next year after a new President is sworn into office.

Reauthorizations:

In April of this year, the House passed HR 2464, the Wakefield Act which would reauthorize the EMSC program. Despite some last minute attempts, the Senate has still not passed their version of the bill (S 60). Keeping in mind that Congress convenes for a two year period, and the upcoming election marks the end such a period, Congress will have to reintroduce these bills next year. The bills will be assigned a different number and the House and Senate will have to consider and vote on the new versions of the bill.

Q: How will it affect us if we do not get appropriations next year?

A: The Program's activities are contingent on having funds available, and the program has been appropriated since 1984. It is hoped, that after March 6 when the continuing resolution ends, Congress will provide monies for the Program. If the Program does not receive funding, grant programs may be affected.

IMPLEMENTATION MANUAL

Tasmeen announced the release of a DRAFT version of the 2009-2010 state partnership performance measures implementation manual. All grantees should have already received a copy of the draft manual by this time. Please note that this manual does not go into effect until March 1, 2009. It has been released early in DRAFT form to allow grantees to plan their grant

applications and to become familiar with the manual. A FINAL version of the manual will be released early next Spring. Comments on this manual are welcome and can be sent to Tasmeen Singh Weik at tsingh@cnmc.org.

The manual can be downloaded at http://childrensnational.org/files/PDF/Implementation_Manual_2009-2010_Draft.pdf

Also on the website is a list of major changes to the manual which can be downloaded at http://childrensnational.org/files/PDF/Performance_Measures_Manual_Changes2.pdf
Please note we have only highlighted the major changes. You should read the manual completely.

The 2007 manual is also on the NRC website for download since it is the current manual to be used until February 28, 2009. The link is http://childrensnational.org/files/PDF/Implementation_manual_Final_2007.pdf

2009 EMSC STATE PARTNERSHIP NEW & COMPETING CONTINUATION PROGRAM GRANT GUIDANCE

Tasmeen also announced that HRSA released the 2009 EMSC New and Competing Continuation Grant Guidance on Thursday, October 2, 2008. All grantees should have already received a copy of the grant guidance from their NRC liaisons. There are forty-seven available grants that are expected to be funded up to \$130,000. Applications are due to Grants.gov by no later than 8:00 P.M. EST on December 2, 2008. Tasmeen reviewed the guidance page by page noting specific areas that are different from prior applications as well as critical information that grantees should be aware of.

Please note on page 26, that only the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) may formally submit the application into grants.gov. Grantees should plan preparation of their applications to assure timely review and submission of their applications by the AOR.

Questions in regards to the grant guidance and critical areas to be considered in grant application preparation can be found in a "Frequently Asked Question" document that will be posted on the NRC website (www.childrensnational.org/emsc) under "Grant Writing Resources" within the "For Grantees" section.