

Dear HBCU Investigators and Faculty Members:

Enclosed are the application materials for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Office of Research, Development, and Information (ORDI) 2004 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Health Services Research Grant Program. The program is intended to encourage HBCU investigators to undertake health services research on issues affecting African American communities. The goals of the program are to: 1) assist new health services researchers to pursue research issues which impact the Medicare and Medicaid programs, 2) assist CMS in carrying out its mission focusing on health care quality and improvement for its beneficiaries, 3) increase the pool of African American researchers available to carry out CMS' research, demonstration, and evaluation programs, and 4) provide opportunities for the HBCU Research Network Collaboration in the areas of research, information, and program development.

ORDI is responsible for administering this grant program. The enclosed application kit has been prepared to facilitate your preparation of a grant application. The application kit contains a description of the program and application procedures and provides the forms and information necessary to prepare and submit the application.

Prospective applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent by May 17, 2004, to assist us in planning and identifying appropriate peer reviewers. The application is due by the close of business on June 25, 2004. Please review the enclosed application materials carefully.

Please note that the current application has been revised.

If you have any questions regarding this program or would like additional information, please call Dr. Richard Bragg, Minority Health Services Research Coordinator, at (410) 786-7250.

It is our hope that this grant program will assist HBCUs in successfully addressing the changing health care needs faced by the African American population.

Sincerely,

Timothy P. Love
Director
Office of Research, Development, and Information

Enclosure