



**Strengthening Oklahoma's Safety Net,  
One Community At A Time**

## **Board Bulletin**

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### **Preparing for Grant Renewals**

Since 2001, the number of Section 330 Community Health Center (CHC) grantees has almost tripled with the number of delivery sites growing from six to twenty. Communities worked hard to leverage resources and develop CHC proposals. Blood, sweat and tears went into the 200-page application. As one community grantwriter commented, "Having a community health center funded is like giving birth - the joy of knowing you brought needed health care to your community makes you forget what a torturous grant application you had to put together." The beauty of the 330 program is that the funding is not 'seed money'. One Oklahoma CHC has received funds year after year since 1971. However, securing 330 funding is not the end of the story. CHCs must pay particular attention to the grant renewal applications that are due annually.

#### ***Non-Competing vs. Competing***

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) administers the Consolidated Health Center Program. It promotes the development and operation of community-based primary health care service systems in medically underserved areas that improve the health status of medically underserved populations. Annual grant applications are required of existing CHCs.

◆ **Non-Competing** - If the existing CHC is still operating within a three-year project period, they will submit a non-competing grant application, known as a budget period renewal (BPR). Only existing CHC grantees are eligible to submit non-competing grant applications. CHCs must pay particular attention to their budget period start date to determine the deadline for submitting the non-competing grant and must closely follow the grant application guidance issued for BPRs. The guidance clearly states, "All applicants are expected to demonstrate compliance with the applicable requirements of section 330 of ...BPHC PIN 98-23: Health Center Program Expectations." While not as intensive as the New Access Point (NAP) grant application submitted to secure initial funding, it is important that CHCs pay attention to guidance details and submit a solid grant application as it goes in the grantee's organizational file at HRSA Grants Management.

◆ **Service Area Competition** - When the project period expires, existing 330 grantees must submit a competing continuation grant known as the Service Area Competition (SAC). Eligible entities must be:

- Public or nonprofit private entities, including tribal, faith-based and community-based organizations.
- Organizations proposing to serve the same service area and/or populations being served by currently funded health centers whose project period ends within a specified date (application guidance will specify dates) This includes: 1) Currently funded health centers with the specified project period; 2) An organization representing a consortium of health centers who through their partnership can serve the entire service area and/or population; 3) New organizations that can serve the entire service area and/or population.

In the past, it was clear that challenging organizations had to provide the same level of services to the same service area as the existing grantee. However, NACHC's 2006 Community Health Institute Policy Update listed one of the challenges facing existing CHCs in fiscal year 2007 was that the new SAC guidance makes it easier for other organizations to successfully compete for 330 grant funding. It was reported that SAC applicants no longer have to be operational at the time of submission. While the proposal must serve the same service area, it will not have to use the same delivery mechanism (e.g., number of sites).

#### ***What is the Board's Role in the Grant Renewal Process?***

Ensure that CHC management adequately prepares for grant renewals, particularly the SAC. Budget resources to secure high quality grant writers that have a proven track record with 330 CHC success. Review grant applications for accuracy. Create exemplary organizational capacity through exceptional leadership!

To review OPCA's entire *Board Bulletin* series, visit the 'CHC Boards' section of [www.okpca.org](http://www.okpca.org).

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