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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Opportunity for Funding from the Reproductive Health Access Project Women's Health Free Clinic Project: Expanding Access and Education

January 2010

Introduction

The Reproductive Health Access Project (RHAP) seeks to ensure that women and teens at every socioeconomic level can readily obtain birth control and abortion from their own primary care clinician. Through training, advocacy and mentoring programs, RHAP helps family physicians and other clinicians make birth control and abortion a part of routine medical care. For more information about the organization please visit:

<http://www.reproductiveaccess.org/index.htm>

Women's Health Free Clinic Project: Expanding Access and Education

Free clinics (over 1,200 as of 2008)¹ play an important role in providing medical care to underinsured and uninsured Americans. Many free clinics are associated with a medical school and are staffed by its medical students. This partnership provides students with a rich educational experience.

Fewer than 5% of US medical schools include contraception and family planning in their curriculum. Lack of health insurance and costly health care are barriers that currently prevent many women from receiving even basic preventative services. In the United States over 17 million women are uninsured, and this number is continually growing. Since 2004, the number of uninsured women has risen by 1.2 million, and most of this increase has been among low-income women.² Uninsured women are less likely to have a Pap test, fill a prescription or seek other needed medical care.³

Integrating comprehensive reproductive health care into student-run free clinics would fill an educational gap in our country's medical education system. Furthermore, this arrangement would also provide important services to a needy population.

In 2008, RHAP joined forces with a local community health center network and medical students from New York University School of Medicine to launch the NYC Women's Health Free Clinic (WHFC). The clinic aimed to educate medical students in patient-centered, evidence-based reproductive health care and to provide high-quality reproductive health care to under and uninsured women. Within one year of operation the clinic had educated over 25 medical students, 12 residents and provided reproductive health services to over 200 women and teens.

In the fall of 2008, the Reproductive Health Access Project launched a campaign to promote replication of this clinic elsewhere in the country. The campaign included development of an online toolkit that contains teaching curricula, tools and resources geared toward expanding the scope of reproductive health care that free clinics provide. See <http://www.reproductiveaccess.org/freeclinic.html> for more details.

While there is widespread interest on the part of student-run health centers to integrate reproductive health services into existing student-run health centers, start-up expenses remains a barrier to expansion. ***Through this request for proposals RHAP will provide student-run free clinics with start-up funding to support the integration of reproductive health services into their clinics.***

Project Guidelines

The Reproductive Health Access Project is calling for proposals from student-run free clinics to establish or expand their scope of reproductive health care services provided. Projects including any of the following services will be given priority:

- Cervical cancer screening
- Contraceptive education, counseling and dispensing, including emergency contraception
- IUD / Implanon insertion and Depo-Provera injections
- Pregnancy testing, early pregnancy ultrasound and options counseling for unintended pregnancy
- Medication abortion

Applying clinics must:

- Be student-run
- Provide services at nominal or no cost to the patient
- Have a partnership with a physician who is able to educate medical students about and supervise reproductive health services.

An additional key criterion in the selection process will be the free clinic's commitment to sustaining the added training for medical students and services for patients after the incentive grant ends.

Proposal Guidelines

Up to five grants of \$5,000 will be awarded. Grants will be announced by October 1, 2010.

Please submit a proposal (3 to 4 pages in length) that describes:

- Organization background
 - Mission
 - History
 - Major activities/ description of current educational activities/ population served
 - Current women's health services provided (not necessary to apply for this grant)

- Description of expansion project
 - Goal or objective of project
 - Reproductive health services to be added
 - Project budget
 - How financial support will contribute to reaching the goal or objective
 - How success of expansion project will be evaluated
 - How the clinic will sustain the added training and services after the incentive grant ends
 - What additional support or technical assistance would facilitate the success of the project
- Contact information
 - Name of contact person
 - Phone number
 - Email address
 - Name of Free Clinic
 - City and State served
 - Affiliated Medical School
- Additional Information:
 - Expense budget for the current and most recent fiscal year
 - Source(s) of revenue and funding
 - List of Board of Directors and affiliations
 - Ability to receive funding for students to attend conferences

Application Instructions

Please submit proposals by May 30, 2010. Applications may be mailed or emailed to:

Reproductive Health Access Project
 P.O. Box 21191
 New York, New York 10025
 Attn: Leslie Pendery

womenshealthfreeclinic@reproductiveaccess.org

Subject Line: RHAP Expanding Access and Education Project

For more information contact Leslie Pendery at:
womenshealthfreeclinic@reproductiveaccess.org