STATE OF CALIFORNIA--HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY PETE WILSON, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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May 7, 1996

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MENTAL HEALTH
Program Support Branch

DMH LETTER NO.: 96- 01

TO: LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM CHIEFS
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
CHAIRPERSONS, MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARDS

SUBJECT: FUNDING FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

EXPIRES: JULY 1996

California's public mental health system faces a continuing need for suicide prevention services and activities. This includes targeting adults, older adults, and children. Persons at risk require services and intervention tailored specifically to meet this need.

In recognition of this challenge, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) announces the availability of funding for the development of suicide prevention training. The DMH is soliciting proposals from county mental health programs who wish to develop such a training module. The funds must be awarded before the end of the State Fiscal Year 1995-96. Applications must be received by the DMH no later than May 30, 1996.

It is anticipated that there will be one award offered at a maximum of $100,000. Priority for an award will be given to the proposal that best:

1. develops and tests a stand alone training package usable on a statewide basis and available to all counties.
2. develops hands-on training techniques based on successful integrated models.
3. incorporates the concepts of self help and consumer and family empowerment.
4. establishes a "shared learning experience" designed to facilitate communication and mutual respect between the mental health and other appropriate local health and social service systems compatible with the development of integrated systems of care.
5. is compatible with a managed care environment.
6. is compatible with subsequent short and long term case management and treatment, if needed by at-risk persons.

Funds can be used to pay for consultants, materials, travel and other costs directly related to the development of the training package.

PROPOSALS

Applicants must submit a proposal, not to exceed five typewritten pages, which must include:

- a brief statement of the project's principle objectives
- a description of the audience (professional, paraprofessional, and advocate) for which the suicide prevention training module would be designed
- a description of the proposed training package, including the materials to be developed, the number of people to be trained, level of involvement of county and/or contract staff and their experience and qualifications, and proposed method of evaluation
- an estimated timetable for completing the training package (training package must be completed by June 1997)
- the name and qualifications of the proposed consultant(s) and/or staff actually involved in the training development
- a one page budget, noting the extent to which match funding is included from other sources such as Medi-Cal and local Title IV-E training funds
- a statement that the complete training package will be made available in the public domain.

The applications will be reviewed by a panel of DMH staff and representation from the California Mental Health Planning Council. The award will be announced by June 20, 1996.

Please contact Dave Neilsen, Specialized Programs, at (916) 654-2952, if you have any questions regarding the application process.

STEPHEN W. MAYBERG, Ph.D.
Director

cc: California Mental Health Planning Council
Chief, Technical Assistance and Training