



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

GIH State Grant Writing Assistance Fund, 3/1/11 – 12/31/11

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Request for Proposals is to invite grant writers to participate in a grant writer's pool managed by Con Alma Health Foundation to provide grant writing support to New Mexico state government agencies to assist in health reform implementation.

KEY DATES:

- March 1, 2011: Applications/proposals accepted.
- Fund Period: March 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011

AWARD AMOUNT AND AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR GRANT WRITERS: \$30,000 total will be available for period March 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011. Grant Writing Pool members will be compensated on a per grant written basis. Amount per grant writer will vary contingent on scope of services.

HOW TO APPLY: Submit written proposal (limited to 3 pages maximum, excluding resume) via email or mail by posted preferred deadline (no faxes.) to Michelle Gutierrez, Program Officer, Con Alma Health Foundation (contact info below).

Proposal should include:

1. Contact information: Applicant name and contact information (email, phone(s), mailing address), etc.
2. Experience: Summary of experience in writing governmental proposals and securing governmental grants in/for New Mexico (required). Health field preferred but not required.
3. Cost: description of fees: hours can be estimated but grant writers will be compensated on a "project" or in this case, per grant written basis, e.g. estimated 20 - 30 hours, not to exceed \$1,500 for xyz proposal (\$50 per hour plus GRT). For more info, see Process on page 2.
4. References: provide the name, title, and contact information (email and phone) for three professional references familiar with your grant writing skills. At least one reference must be from a representative of a governmental agency/department.
5. Attachment: Attach most current resume/s (principal grantwriters)

Submit proposal/application (via email or mail – no faxes) to:
Michelle Gutierrez, Program Officer, Con Alma HEALTH Foundation
144 Park Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87501
Ph: 505/438-0776 Ext. 6; Fax: 505/438-6223
Email: mgutierrez@conalma.org

ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION CRITERIA:

PROPOSAL REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS:

Grant writers selected must be acceptable to both the state and Con Alma Health Foundation: Grant writers selected will be required to have experience in writing and securing governmental grants for NM State Government. Other criteria in addition to experience will include the quality of the proposal, cost proposal, availability, and references. A small selection committee comprised of representatives from Con Alma Health Foundation and the State of New Mexico will make the actual selection of individuals to be included in the pool of grant writers for this initiative.

Con Alma Health Foundation employee(s) responsible for managing the grant: The Executive Director of Con Alma Health Foundation, Dolores E. Roybal, will be the individual responsible for managing the GIH State Grant Writing Assistance Fund, and Michelle Gutierrez, Program Officer.

NOTIFICATION:

All applicants will be notified of receipt of proposal and status, that is, if their proposal is selected or declined for the pool of eligible grant writers.

PROCESS:

A list of eligible grant writers will be maintained by Con Alma Health Foundation. Representatives from NM State Government will contact Con Alma with requests for grant writing services. Grant writers from the approved pool will be contacted regarding interest, availability, and cost to provide grant writing services. Grant writers will be matched with requests on an as needed or requested basis. Con Alma Health Foundation will make the final selection of grant writer to request.

BACKGROUND:

New Mexico is a poor state (17% are below the poverty rate in NM vs. 13% in the US). New Mexico also has a high uninsured rate: 23% of New Mexicans were uninsured in 2008, vs. the national rate of 15.4%. NM had the second highest uninsured rate in the nation preceded only by Texas at 24.4%. According to the 2010 Kids Count Data Book, NM has an overall rank of 46 (national) in child well-being and is in the bottom five states in child well-being and persistent child poverty and the situation is worse for children of color. New Mexico is a majority minority state with two large minorities: Hispanics and Native Americans: 45% Hispanic, and 9.5% Native American. Nationally, NM is ranked 1st by percentage of Hispanics and the 2nd-highest percentage Native Americans of any state.

New Mexico has an opportunity to significantly improve health care access for our vulnerable children, families and communities through the new health care reform law. As one of the poorest states in the country, it is critical that NM take advantage of these opportunities. While New Mexicans struggle financially, our communities are also hopeful. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) will provide new opportunities for providing coverage to more than 423,000 New Mexicans and 32 million uninsured people nationwide by 2019. The new law also provides an opportunity for addressing racial and ethnic disparities through a number of key provisions. Health Care Reform will allow the state to improve and expand on community based prevention, public health, community health centers and to expand access to health coverage through the expansion of Medicaid. New Mexico could gain \$6 to \$8 billion from the new law in the next decade (according to U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman's office).

FUNDING:

The Affordable Care Act offers a number of funding opportunities to state government agencies to support their efforts to implement the health reform act. Because of budgetary and staffing constraints, however, many states have found it difficult to prepare proposals to access these funds. To address this issue, Grantmakers In Health (GIH), with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, developed the GIH Grant Writing Assistance Fund. The fund provides up to \$15,000 per state and requires a dollar-for-dollar match from participating funders. Con Alma Health Foundation (in collaboration with another local funder/s) is providing the match for a total GIH Grant Writing Assistance Fund in New Mexico of \$30,000 for the period March 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011.