



# **Applying for a HRSA Grant**

Slides For Future Reference







## 1) Register and Get Ready

- Register with DUNS
- Register with SAM
- Register with Grants.gov





#### **Register with DUNS**

- Go to D&B DUNS Numbers for U.S. Government Contractors and Grantees. <a href="http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/pages/CCRSearch.jsp">http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/pages/CCRSearch.jsp</a>
- Select the country or territory where your organization is physically located. Complete and submit the form which includes:
  - · Your organization's physical and mailing addresses,
  - · Name and title of the chief executive
  - Primary Standard Industrial Code (SIC)
  - Whether or not the organization is minority-, woman- or veteran-owned, number of employees, and annual revenue.
- Your DUNS number will be e-mailed to you the same day.





#### **Register with System for Award Management (SAM)**

- Go to the SAM and select Create User Account or Register/Update Entity and complete the form, which will take about an hour.
- Be prepared with your organization's:
  - DUNS number,
  - Tax ID number (NOTE: If you do not have an EIN, Apply for an Employer Identification Number (EIN) Online) organization's
  - · Business start date,
  - · Congressional district
  - · Physical mailing addresses,
  - E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC) and a Marketing Partner Identification Number (MPIN).
- After you submit your SAM registration, you will receive an email from SAM.gov letting you know your registration is active. To keep your SAM registration active, be sure to renew at least once each year which takes about 5 days to process. If your registration expires, you cannot submit a grant application until it is renewed.



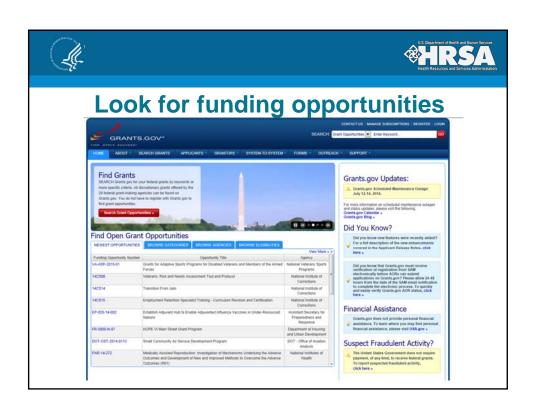


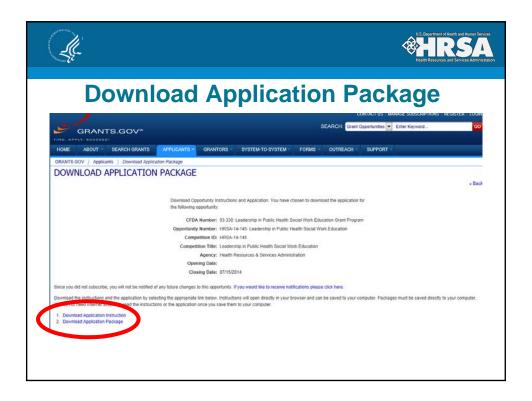
#### **Register with Grants.gov**

- Allow 2 to 3 weeks to register with Grants.gov after DUNS and SAM registration
- · Go to Get Registered with Grants.gov.
- Know your organization's DUNS number from step 1
- After each Authorized Organization Representative (AOR)
  registrant submits a registration form to Grants.gov, the E-BIZ
  POC will receive an e-mail, prompting her or him to log into
  Grants.gov and approve the AOR. The E-BIZ POC will need
  organization's MPIN acquired in Step Two to approve AOR
  registrations
- When the registration is approved, the submitting AOR will receive a confirmation e-mail and will be able to submit applications.













# For HRSA funding opportunity announcements (FOAs)....

#### Remember to download:

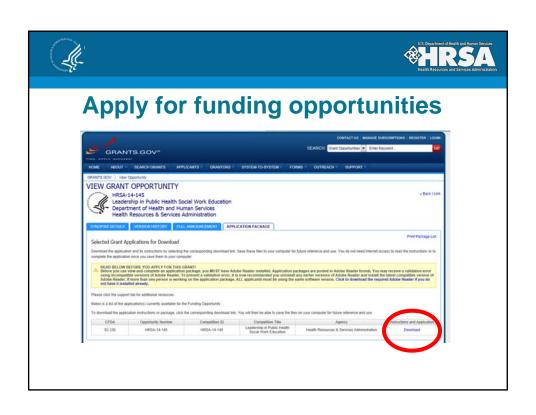
#### **FOA Instructions**

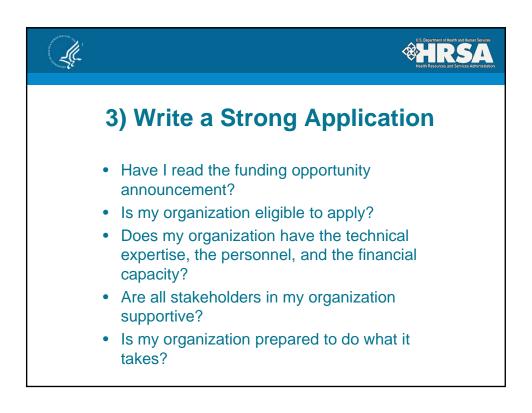
 Provides programmatic requirements

#### HRSA SF-424 Application Guide

- Companion guide to the FOA
- Referenced throughout the FOA











# 4) Understand the Review Process

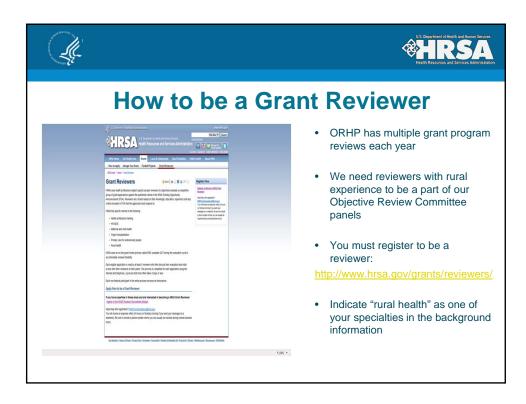
- Standard review criteria, common among almost all opportunities, are as follows:
  - · Needs assessment:
  - · Response;
  - Evaluative measures;
  - Impact;
  - · Resources/capabilities; and
  - · Support requested
- Most funding opportunity announcements include more specific criteria for each category and many list additional review criteria, such as cultural competence





### **Understand the Review Process**

- Division of Independent Review (DIR)
- Panel of reviewers
- Review Criterion
- Objective Review Committee (ORC) Process
- Rank Order Listing









# GENERAL GRANT WRITING TIPS

(ESPECIALLY FOR COMMUNITY-BASED GRANTS)



# U.S. Department of Health and Human Services HRSA

# **Explore Options**

- ☐ Start early
- ☐ Become an expert on the grant program that you want to apply for.
- □ Research the types of projects that have been awarded under the program.







# **Application Planning**



- ☐ Read and re-read Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)
- □ Have one or two other staff read all the program information (guidance, forms, etc.)
  - You should agree on what needs to be in the application and how to proceed
- Make certain you understand exactly what, how, when, etc. is required for the application





# **Application Planning**

- ☐ Create a Team to Work on the Project
  - Name the lead person (Someone that has the authority to get things done)
  - Set meeting times



 Determine the roles and level of participation of each member





# **Application Planning**

- □Call the program contact person with any questions
  - This is very important
  - They are there to help









### **Story Telling**

- ☐ Tell the story of your community and its needs

   Make sure it aligns with the purpose of the gray
  - Make sure it aligns with the purpose of the grant program



- ☐ Find someone who is organized, writes well and is good at following directions to help with writing the grant
- ☐ After the grant narrative is completed, give it to someone not involved in the project to read
  - If they understand what the needs are, why there are needs, who will be served and how the project will address the needs, the narrative is probably clear





# **Getting Started**



- Make your proposal clear, simple, easy and enjoyable to read
- Stay focused on the project activities
- Avoid jargon and acronyms
- Present gaps in current services
- Don't assume reviewers know your topic or geographical area (background)





# **Application Content**

- **□**Needs
- **□**Response
- **□**Evaluation
- □Impact
- □ Resources & Capabilities
- **□**Support Requested







# **Planning Strategies**

- ☐ Host a meeting of interested parties
  - Initial reaction
  - Review funding opportunity announcement
  - Mission match/community impact
- ☐ SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
- Needs Assessment
  - Focus groups
  - Survey
  - Secondary data







#### **How Do You Assess Needs?**

#### **Example: Focus Groups**

- A specially selected group to discuss an issue
- Open ended questions
- 7-10 people
- Contrasts with Key Informant
  - Key informant provides individual perspective
  - Focus group offers individual within the context of a group

#### Advantages/Disadvantages

#### **Advantage**

- Speed
- Low cost
- Flexibility
- Benefit of group dynamics

#### **Disadvantage**

- Less control than key informant
- Difficulty in assembling the group
- Disadvantage of group dynamics





#### **How Do You Assess Needs?**

#### **Example: Survey**

- Sample of population (entire population)
- Typically a closed ended instrument (sometimes open ended)
- Mailed, telephone, personal interview
- Measure attitude
  - present services (awareness, use, need)
  - need for future services
  - quality of services/care
  - provider assessment

#### Advantage/Disadvantage

- Advantage
  - Most scientifically valid and reliable
  - Representative of population
  - Commonly used and accepted
  - Amount of data gathered

#### Disadvantage

- Most expensive
- Less flexible





#### **How Do You Assess Needs?**

#### **Example: Community Forum**

- Open public meeting with all interested persons invited to participate
- Generally provides a means of soliciting a broad range of views and concerns
- Pose questions to the audience
  - What do you see as the most important community or regional health problems?
  - What areas should be addressed?
  - How do we address these issues?

#### Advantages/Disadvantages

#### Advantage

- Speed and low cost
- Flexibility
- Most participatory
- Educate public and form of community development

#### **Disadvantage**

- Can be unrepresentative of population
- "Gripe" session
- Challenge "expert" perspective





# **Writing and Development Tips**



- · Remember others
  - Talk to others who have written grants
  - Try to locate people who have been funded by organizations you plan to submit a proposal
  - · State Office of Rural Health
  - Associations and other regional or state organizations
  - Rural Assistance Center (RAC)





## **Writing and Development Tips**

- Remember your audience: The panel of reviewers
  - Reviewers typically do not know anything about your situation, your community, or even your state
  - Explain basic facts:
    - rural and frontier as a concept (distance, weather, roads); culture; and your unique circumstances
  - Central goal = convince reviewer of the legitimacy of your problem, your solution, your ability





### **Writing and Development Tips**

- □Don't deviate from the FOA
  - The order of sections and the titles are set
  - The rules are set
- □Be detailed (even to the point of being elementary)
- ☐Be concise (less words the better)





### **Writing and Development Tips**

- ☐ Put yourself in the funding source's shoes -- ask yourself the same questions that a skeptical reader would ask:
  - Why should anyone bother to read this?
  - Why should they care?
  - What difference is this going to make?
- □ Present it in layperson's words -- program officer and reviewers may not be an expert in your field and they have to explain the proposal to others





### Goal. Objective. Activity.



- Goal: Complete a Needs Assessment
  - Objective: Within 3 months, develop a needs assessment tool
    - Activity: Distribute Needs Assessment Document to all Health Fair Participants





## **Budget Narrative**

- How many organizations are contributing to the budget
- What percent of funds are being solicited from the funding source
- Are subcontracts involved
- Annual salary increases (multiple year projects)
  - Allow for cost of living increases







# **Budget Categories**

#### **Calculate all relevant expenses**

- Salary
- Benefits (social security, workman's compensation)
- Printing and photocopying
- Postage and shipping
- Long distance and cellular telephone service
- Materials and supplies
- Mileage and travel
- Outside services

