

Dear HBCU Faculty Members:

Enclosed are the application materials for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Office of Research, Development, and Information (ORDI) 2008 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Health Services Research Grant Program. The purpose of the grant program is to support HBCU researchers in carrying out health services/disparities research activities to meet the needs of diverse CMS beneficiary populations. The goals of the program are to: 1) encourage HBCU health services researchers to pursue research issues which impact the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP programs, 2) assist CMS in implementing its mission focusing on health care quality and improvement for its beneficiaries, 3) assist HBCU researchers by supporting extramural research in health care capacity development activities for the African American communities, 4) increase the pool of HBCU researchers capable of implementing the research, demonstration, and evaluation activities of CMS, and 5) assist in fostering interuniversity communication and collaboration regarding African American health disparity issues.

ORDI is responsible for administering this grant program. The enclosed application kit has been prepared to facilitate your preparation of a grant application. The application kit contains a description of the program and application procedures and provides the forms and information necessary to prepare and submit the application.

Prospective applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent by May 23, 2008, to assist us in planning and identifying appropriate peer reviewers. The application is due by the close of business on June 25, 2008. Please review the enclosed application materials carefully.

**Please note that the current application has been revised.**

If you have any questions regarding this program or would like additional information, please call Dr. Richard Bragg, Coordinator, Minority Health Services Research Program, at (410) 786-7250. It is our hope that this grant program will assist HBCUs in successfully addressing the changing health care needs faced by the African American population.

Sincerely,

Timothy P. Love  
Director  
Office of Research, Development, and Information

Enclosure