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MEMORANDUM

TO : Members of National Advisory Council                      DATE: JUNE 20, 1966  
     on Regional Medical Programs

FROM : William D. Mayer, M.D.

SUBJECT: Information in Guidelines Relating to Continuing Education

Page 31 - under "Eligible Activities"

Certain program elements deserve special discussion. Applications for a Regional Medical Program grant, both planning and operational, must include specific reference to program plans for education and training of health personnel. Continuing education should receive particular emphasis as an integral part of the total Regional Medical Program. However, meritorious programs of continuing education presented in the absence of, or unrelated to, plans for the fuller development of a Regional Medical Program cannot be supported through grants under this program. Therefore, the relationship of continuing education to other aspects of the proposed planning or operational activity must be indicated.

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Emphasis was given to continuing education in the history of the legislation. Creative approaches in the development and management of cooperative arrangements to achieve high quality education programs as well as new ways of applying educational research findings are vital.

Examples of activities for consideration in planning in the area of continuing education are: identification of existing educational and training programs within the region; identification of additional educational and training needs in the region; projections of methods of meeting those needs including specification of appropriate curriculum content, data used to determine need, etc.; preliminary thoughts relative to the mechanism of evaluating the effectiveness of future programs in meeting the needs; the relationship of continuing education and training programs to the overall objectives of the Regional Medical Program including their anticipated effectiveness in bringing about cooperative arrangements between the various health institutions and personnel within the region.

"Under an Operational Grant - Pilot projects for the establishment and operation of a Regional Medical Program can cover a great variety of activities.

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"a. Continuing Education and Training - It is assumed that before applying for an operational grant in this area, certain activities will have been undertaken during the planning process (see above). Operational grant funds can support costs of programs including teaching staff, equipment, educational materials, transportation, rental or renovation of space and related demonstrations of patient care. However, the grant may not supplant previous support for on-going activities in this area. Documentation of the additive nature of the proposed program should be made. Stipends for trainees and participants in the program will be considered only when it is fully documented that such funds are not available from other sources and their expenditure is absolutely necessary for the implementation of the program.

"In those instances where major expenditures for equipment and supplies are requested special emphasis should be given to measurement of the effectiveness of the program including measurements in the change in performance of the participants, numbers of participants, and degree to which the information produced might be generalized to other programs. There should also be acknowledgement of related efforts already accomplished by others with indications of the manner by which the proposed project will extend those efforts. It is anticipated that such major investments for equipment and supplies will more appropriately be in pilot projects or operational grants rather than in feasibility studies or planning grants.

"Considerations under the Regional Medical Programs will be given to continuing education and training programs for medical, paramedical and associated professions. However, it should be emphasized that the primary intent of the legislation in this area is the support of those activities that are beyond those normally accepted as basic preparation for work in the health field. Thus, support of basic programs in medical education, residency training, and basic education and training in paramedical areas is not normally anticipated. If, however, the applicant can demonstrate that funds are not available from other sources and the particular basic educational program is essential to the success of its Regional Medical Program then consideration will be given to such a request.

"Applicants are encouraged to explore innovative training approaches and the development of new types of health personnel to meet the manpower needs of the region as identified in the planning process."