



E000592

Questions and Answers
for
1973 Senate Hearings

I. Funding Strategy

1. Why is there a cutback in 1973? How will it be taken?

Answer: Actually the 1973 request of \$120,800,000 is a \$80,300,000 increase over the 1972 request of \$40,500,000 and a \$30,300,000 increase over the amount appropriated for 1972 - \$90,500,000.

Further, there is no cut in 1973 in the RMP level of activity.

Rather there is a \$7,000,000 increase requested for Emergency Medical Services. The decreases come in one-time investments in HMO's and construction of the cancer center in Seattle.

Grant Funds available 1972	\$135,000,000
less HMO investment.....	-16,200,000
less construction.....	-5,000,000
plus EMS.....	<u>7,000,000</u>
1973 Request.....	\$120,800,000

4. How much more are the RMP's requesting than you are able to fund in 1972?

Answer: In the last full review cycle about \$20,000,000 worth of projects are approved but unfunded. This figure is down from past years because expectations were lessened with the 12% cutback in 1971. Since the release of new funds in 1972, requests are beginning to come in at slightly higher levels than might have otherwise been expected.

5. Explain what funds are available in 1972 and 1973.

<u>RMP Grant Funds</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
Request	40,500,000	120,800,000
Appropriated	90,500,000	---
Carried over from 1971	<u>44,500,000</u> 1/	<u>---</u>
Total Available	135,000,000	120,800,000

1/ Consists of \$34,500,000 placed in reserve in 1971 and \$10,000,000 appropriated at the end of FY 1971 but unobligated.

I. Funding Strategy (Cont'd)

6. How are you spending the \$50 million we gave you over your request last year?

<u>Answer:</u>	HMO	\$16,200,000
	EMS	8,000,000
	Traditional RMP	<u>25,800,000</u>
	Total	50,000,000

7. What earmarks will there be in 1973?

Answer: The only earmarks presently identified is \$15,000,000 for emergency medical services.

8. Could you spend more money in 1973?

Answer: RMP's could spend more money and do it effectively. However, RMP is but one of many good programs aimed at solving the health problems of the nation. In fact, RMP's depend on many of these programs for support and assistance to meet their goals. We would not want to see these efforts restricted or diminished in any way because more funds are directed to RMP's. They are vital to the success of RMP.

II. New Program Directions/Priorities

10. What are Area Health Education Centers? Describe what you are doing and what you plan to do in this area.

Answer: A clear definition has not yet emerged. However, RMP's will continue to support activities aimed at improving health manpower skills and creating new ones.

11. What will RMP's do in the area of Emergency Medical Service Systems?

Answer: Systems will be developed through the Regional Medical Program mechanism which will bring together better transportation services,

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II. New Program Directions/Priorities (Cont'd)

Answer: communications which would tie hospitals, transportation facilities and other emergency organizations into rapid response systems, and emergency medical centers with specially trained physicians and nurses. Care will be taken to assure that such systems are integrated with the total health care delivery system of a community or region. These activities will be at all times consistent with the contract activity located in the Office of the Administrator, Health Services and Mental Health Administration.

15. How can you spend \$16,200,000 for HMO's without authorizing legislation? Who will administer these funds? Who will receive these funds? How many awards will be made?

Answer: While it is true that no specific authorizing legislation has been passed, RMP has a mandate (Senate Appropriations Committee Report FY 1972 p. 25) to use part of the 1972 increase to "prove out" the HMO concept.

The HMOS, with RMP participation in the review process, is administering HMO funds.

Private, non-profit organizations will receive HMO funding (out of RMP funds).

It is too early to determine the number of awards which will be made.

III. Congressional Directives

18. Are there any RMP's currently operating at a lower funding level than in 1971? If so, why?

Answer: Yes, there are a few. There are two principle causes. (1) Some regions are in the process of reorganizing to improve their

Answer: abilities to meet local needs. Some are undergoing leadership changes. (2) A few regions fall short in the relative ranking process. In its application of the selective funding policy, the National Advisory Council has chosen to approve support for these regions which is below 1971 levels. RMPS is working closely with these regions and is making special efforts to see that these regions improve their performance.

IV. Other

19. What is the status of the project to construct a cancer center in the Northwest?

Answer: The cancer center project is making good progress toward meeting the requirements for funding this fiscal year. A site visit has been made and the reaction was very favorable. RMPS staff is working closely with center staff to avoid any last minute delays which might otherwise occur.

22. What is the current situation with regard to the Montgomery County Heart Unit?

Answer: The Montgomery County Heart Unit is now operating solely with support from local resources. The RMP contract expired December 31, 1971.