



Introduction

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), was established by an act of Congress in 1992 under Public Law 102-321. SAMHSA was created to focus attention, programs, and funding on improving the lives of people with or at risk for mental and substance abuse disorders. SAMHSA supports numerous activities that focus on substance abuse prevention, addiction treatment and mental health services through its discretionary grant programs.

To build national prevention and treatment capabilities for mental and substance abuse disorders, the challenge for SAMHSA is to reach community projects with funding information. SAMHSA recognizes that grassroots operations often are in the best position to make healthy changes in their communities.

The “Developing Competitive SAMHSA Grant Applications” manual is designed to reach potential community-based grantees and prepare them with the knowledge and practice to prepare competitive, well-developed, Federal grant applications.

Purpose of This Manual

“Developing Competitive SAMHSA Grant Applications” was created to help you acquire the skills and resources needed to plan, write, and prepare a competitive grant application for SAMHSA funding.

Learning Objectives

This manual will help you to:

- Decide whether or not a particular grant opportunity is appropriate for your organization;
- Assemble and maintain current project and community data for planning ideas;
- Review SAMHSA grant announcements, and plan an application strategy;
- Examine eligibility and screening criteria to meet organizational and formatting requirements;
- Assemble your resources and your writing team;
- Write grant applications that respond to the required outline and the grant evaluation criteria; and
- Anticipate peer-review response.