

under subsection (d), there are authorized to be appropriated \$1,340,000,000 for fiscal year 2002 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2003 through 2006.

(2) SPECIAL PROVISIONS.—

(A) PUBLIC CENTERS.—The Secretary may not expend in any fiscal year, for grants under this section to public centers (as defined in the second sentence of subsection (k)(3)) the governing boards of which (as described in subsection (k)(3)(H)) do not establish general policies for such centers, an amount which exceeds 5 percent of the amounts appropriated under this section for that fiscal year. For purposes of applying the preceding sentence, the term “public centers” shall not include health centers that receive grants pursuant to subsection (h) or (i).

(B) DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS.—For fiscal year 2002 and each of the following fiscal years, the Secretary, in awarding grants under this section, shall ensure that the proportion of the amount made available under each of subsections (g), (h), and (i), relative to the total amount appropriated to carry out this section for that fiscal year, is equal to the proportion of the amount made available under that subsection for fiscal year 2001, relative to the total amount appropriated to carry out this section for fiscal year 2001.

(3) FUNDING REPORT.—The Secretary shall annually prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report concerning the distribution of funds under this section that are provided to meet the health care needs of medically underserved populations, including the homeless, residents of public housing, and migratory and seasonal agricultural workers, and the appropriateness of the delivery systems involved in responding to the needs of the particular populations. Such report shall include an assessment of the relative health care access needs of the targeted populations and the rationale for any substantial changes in the distribution of funds.

**SEC. 330A. [254c] RURAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES OUTREACH, RURAL HEALTH NETWORK DEVELOPMENT, AND SMALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAMS.**

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to provide grants for expanded delivery of health care services in rural areas, for the planning and implementation of integrated health care networks in rural areas, and for the planning and implementation of small health care provider quality improvement activities.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director specified in subsection (d).

(2) FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER; RURAL HEALTH CLINIC.—The terms “Federally qualified health center” and “rural health clinic” have the meanings given the terms in section 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)).

(3) HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA.—The term “health professional shortage area” means a health professional shortage area designated under section 332.

(4) **MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.**—The term “medically underserved community” has the meaning given the term in section 799B(6).

(5) **MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATION.**—The term “medically underserved population” has the meaning given the term in section 330(b)(3).

(c) **PROGRAM.**—The Secretary shall establish, under section 301, a small health care provider quality improvement grant program.

(d) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **PROGRAMS.**—The rural health care services outreach, rural health network development, and small health care provider quality improvement grant programs established under section 301 shall be administered by the Director of the Office of Rural Health Policy of the Health Resources and Services Administration, in consultation with State offices of rural health or other appropriate State government entities.

(2) **GRANTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out the programs described in paragraph (1), the Director may award grants under subsections (e), (f), and (g) to expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of essential health care services, and enhance the delivery of health care, in rural areas.

(B) **TYPES OF GRANTS.**—The Director may award the grants—

(i) to promote expanded delivery of health care services in rural areas under subsection (e);

(ii) to provide for the planning and implementation of integrated health care networks in rural areas under subsection (f); and

(iii) to provide for the planning and implementation of small health care provider quality improvement activities under subsection (g).

(e) **RURAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES OUTREACH GRANTS.**—

(1) **GRANTS.**—The Director may award grants to eligible entities to promote rural health care services outreach by expanding the delivery of health care services to include new and enhanced services in rural areas. The Director may award the grants for periods of not more than 3 years.

(2) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection for a project, an entity—

(A) shall be a rural public or rural nonprofit private entity;

(B) shall represent a consortium composed of members—

(i) that include 3 or more health care providers;

and

(ii) that may be nonprofit or for-profit entities;

and

(C) shall not previously have received a grant under this subsection for the same or a similar project, unless the entity is proposing to expand the scope of the project or the area that will be served through the project.

(3) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity, in consultation with the appropriate State office of rural health or another appropriate State entity, shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an application, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

(A) a description of the project that the eligible entity will carry out using the funds provided under the grant;

(B) a description of the manner in which the project funded under the grant will meet the health care needs of rural underserved populations in the local community or region to be served;

(C) a description of how the local community or region to be served will be involved in the development and ongoing operations of the project;

(D) a plan for sustaining the project after Federal support for the project has ended;

(E) a description of how the project will be evaluated; and

(F) other such information as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(f) RURAL HEALTH NETWORK DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.—

(1) GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director may award rural health network development grants to eligible entities to promote, through planning and implementation, the development of integrated health care networks that have combined the functions of the entities participating in the networks in order to—

(i) achieve efficiencies;

(ii) expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of essential health care services; and

(iii) strengthen the rural health care system as a whole.

(B) GRANT PERIODS.—The Director may award such a rural health network development grant for implementation activities for a period of 3 years. The Director may also award such a rural health network development grant for planning activities for a period of 1 year, to assist in the development of an integrated health care network, if the proposed participants in the network do not have a history of collaborative efforts and a 3-year grant would be inappropriate.

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, an entity—

(A) shall be a rural public or rural nonprofit private entity;

(B) shall represent a network composed of participants—

(i) that include 3 or more health care providers;

and

(ii) that may be nonprofit or for-profit entities;

and

(C) shall not previously have received a grant under this subsection (other than a grant for planning activities) for the same or a similar project.

(3) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity, in consultation with the appropriate State office of rural health or another appropriate State entity, shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an application, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

(A) a description of the project that the eligible entity will carry out using the funds provided under the grant;

(B) an explanation of the reasons why Federal assistance is required to carry out the project;

(C) a description of—

(i) the history of collaborative activities carried out by the participants in the network;

(ii) the degree to which the participants are ready to integrate their functions; and

(iii) how the local community or region to be served will benefit from and be involved in the activities carried out by the network;

(D) a description of how the local community or region to be served will experience increased access to quality health care services across the continuum of care as a result of the integration activities carried out by the network;

(E) a plan for sustaining the project after Federal support for the project has ended;

(F) a description of how the project will be evaluated; and

(G) other such information as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(g) SMALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.—

(1) GRANTS.—The Director may award grants to provide for the planning and implementation of small health care provider quality improvement activities. The Director may award the grants for periods of 1 to 3 years.

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under this subsection, an entity—

(A)(i) shall be a rural public or rural nonprofit private health care provider or provider of health care services, such as a critical access hospital or a rural health clinic; or

(ii) shall be another rural provider or network of small rural providers identified by the Secretary as a key source of local care; and

(B) shall not previously have received a grant under this subsection for the same or a similar project.

(3) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity, in consultation with the appropriate State office of rural health or another appropriate State entity shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an ap-

plication, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

(A) a description of the project that the eligible entity will carry out using the funds provided under the grant;

(B) an explanation of the reasons why Federal assistance is required to carry out the project;

(C) a description of the manner in which the project funded under the grant will assure continuous quality improvement in the provision of services by the entity;

(D) a description of how the local community or region to be served will experience increased access to quality health care services across the continuum of care as a result of the activities carried out by the entity;

(E) a plan for sustaining the project after Federal support for the project has ended;

(F) a description of how the project will be evaluated; and

(G) other such information as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(4) EXPENDITURES FOR SMALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.—In awarding a grant under this subsection, the Director shall ensure that the funds made available through the grant will be used to provide services to residents of rural areas. The Director shall award not less than 50 percent of the funds made available under this subsection to providers located in and serving rural areas.

(h) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) PROHIBITED USES OF FUNDS.—An entity that receives a grant under this section may not use funds provided through the grant—

(A) to build or acquire real property; or

(B) for construction.

(2) COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.—The Secretary shall coordinate activities carried out under grant programs described in this section, to the extent practicable, with Federal and State agencies and nonprofit organizations that are operating similar grant programs, to maximize the effect of public dollars in funding meritorious proposals.

(3) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to entities that—

(A) are located in health professional shortage areas or medically underserved communities, or serve medically underserved populations; or

(B) propose to develop projects with a focus on primary care, and wellness and prevention strategies.

(i) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2005, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the progress and accomplishments of the grant programs described in subsections (e), (f), and (g).

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2002, and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2006.