

# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH TRAINING PROGRAM

MCH Training Program

Using its discretionary grant authority, the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) funds public and private nonprofit institutions of higher learning to provide leadership training in maternal and child health (MCH). Through these grants, MCHB funds training programs in 14 priority areas.

The goal of each MCH Training Program project is to improve the health status of mothers, children (including children with special health care needs),



and adolescents. In addition, the program strives to develop leaders in professions relevant to MCH. Most of the projects are long-term training programs

for master's and doctoral candidates that provide them with a high level of leadership skills and clinical competence.

In addition to offering long-term training, all projects are expected to

- Provide professional consultation and technical assistance to state and local health agencies
- Provide continuing education activities for the MCH community and related practice communities
- Effect changes in academia by working toward including more MCH-related courses in curricula.

Competitions for MCH Training Program funding take place every 5 years. The next competition year for each project appears below, following the project description. For additional information about project competitions, see the MCHB Web site: <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/html/drte.html>.

## DESCRIPTION OF TRAINING PRIORITIES

### INTERDISCIPLINARY PRIORITIES AND SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

These projects recruit faculty from many fields who take a team-based approach to providing interdisciplinary training.

*Adolescent Health:* Prepares trainees in a wide variety of professional disciplines (physicians, nurses, social workers, nutritionists, and psychologists) for leadership roles and strives to ensure a high level of clinical competence in the provision of care to adolescents. The next competition is in 2002.

*Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND):* Provides leadership training in health care and related care for children with developmental disabilities and other special health care needs, and for their families. Core faculty and trainees typically represent the following disciplines: pediatrics, nursing, public health, social work, nutrition, speech/language pathology, audiology, pediatric dentistry, psychology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, health administration, and, most recently, parents of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities. The next competition is in 2000.

*Pediatric Pulmonary Centers:* Prepares health professionals in the areas of pulmonary medicine, nursing, nutrition, pharmacy, respiratory therapy, and social work for leadership roles in the development, enhancement, or improvement of community-based care for children with chronic respiratory diseases. The next competition is in 2005.

*Schools of Public Health:* Supports the development and enhancement of MCH content, expertise, and training in schools of public health and helps make MCH resources available throughout the nation. The next competition is in 2005.

## DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC PROJECTS

*Behavioral Pediatrics:* Focuses attention on the behavioral, psychosocial, and developmental aspects of general pediatric care by supporting fellows preparing for academic leadership roles in behavioral pediatrics. The next competition is in 2002.

*Communication Disorders:* Provides graduate training of speech/language pathologists and audiologists who plan to assume leadership roles in MCH programs in the areas of education, service, administration, and advocacy related to communication disorders. The next competition is in 2002.

*Historically Black Colleges and Universities:* Trains medical fellows, residents, medical students, and other health professionals to provide community-based primary care services relevant to MCH, especially to minority or other underserved populations. The next competition is in 2001.

*Nursing:* Provides postprofessional graduate training in nurse-midwifery and in maternity, pediatric, and adolescent nursing to prepare nurses for leadership roles in community-based health programs. The next competition is in 2003.

*Nutrition:* Prepares nutritionists/dietitians for leadership roles in public health nutrition with an emphasis on the MCH community; provides clinical fellowship training in pediatric nutrition; and trains obstetricians, pediatricians, nurses, and nutritionists/dietitians to enhance their leadership skills in order to improve the nutritional status of infants, children, and adolescents. The next competition is in 2003.

*Pediatric Dentistry:* Provides postdoctoral training for pediatric dentists planning to assume leadership roles in administration, education, advocacy, and oral health services. The next competition is in 2002.

*Pediatric Occupational Therapy:* Provides postprofessional graduate training for pediatric occupational therapists planning to assume leadership roles in education, research, service, administration, and policy and advocacy to meet the needs of the MCH population. The next competition is in 2002.

*Pediatric Physical Therapy:* Provides postprofessional graduate training of pediatric physical therapists intending to assume leadership roles in MCH programs. The next competition is in 2002.

*Social Work:* Prepares social workers for leadership roles in programs providing MCH services through graduate or joint-degree programs. The next competition is in 2002.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION PROJECTS

Institutions of higher learning offer short-term continuing education programs to facilitate the timely transfer of new information, research findings, and technology related to MCH, and to update and improve the knowledge and skills of MCH professionals. Workshops, seminars, institutes, and other related activities that develop or improve curricula, standards, practices, or delivery of health care for MCH populations are supported. The next competition is in 2001.

