

Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program Frequently Asked Questions

The following Q&A is provided to assist you with the FY2003 GPE application. Information is included (or will be sent shortly) on a variety of topics and issues, including: application deadline, average grant amounts, student stipends, underserved population requirement, accreditation, peer review, eligibility questions, and more.

General Information about the GPE Application

- ✓ **Where can I find the GPE FY 2003 Applications & Instructions?**
We have just learned that the FY 2003 GPE applications (the general one similar to last year's and a new one for geropsychology training) will be significantly delayed. It is possible that the application won't be available until June or July. It will be posted at <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/grants/default.htm>. *There will be a six-week turn around time once the application is made public.*

- In the meantime, a sample copy of the FY2002 GPE application is available at our website <http://www.apa.org/ppo/images/gpe2002app.pdf>. *However, this should only be used as an example, as the new FY2003 application has been revised and a different one will be used for the geropsychology training.*

- ✓ **When is the due date for the application?**
(will provide asap).

- ✓ **How many grants will be awarded & at what funding levels?**
We have just learned that more funds per grant will be available in FY 2003 than in FY 2002 -- approximately \$150,000 each. There will be about 15 grants for the general GPE and 8-10 for the geropsychology training at approximately \$250,000 each. *Unfortunately, Congress was forced to shave some funds from all domestic programs so the funding available for geropsychology training for FY 2003 will be \$1.5 million (and not \$3 million).*

- ✓ **When will the money be disbursed?**
(will provide asap—definitely by the end of the fiscal year, September 30th)

- ✓ **By when do awarded programs need to spend the money?**
By the end of the year of the grant. *BHPPr do not look kindly at unspent funds at the end of the grant year.*

- ✓ **What can be done regarding the non-supplant requirement?**

Even though federal funds cannot “supplant” other program funds, if your program is facing budget cuts such that total dollars are going down – be sure to address that in the “Justification” section. GPE funds can be used to “create, expand, and maintain” a program.

- ✓ **How many years are the grants for?**
Currently the GPE grants are one time, one-year grants. Through the reauthorization of the Health Professions Programs by Congress (hopefully) during this Congress (2002-2004), Education advocacy staff will seek a three-year authorization.

- ✓ **Is Technical Assistance Available?**
Yes, Marcia Starbecker of the Bureau of Health Professions (Phone: 301/443-6876; Email mstarbecker@hrsa.gov) is available to answer technical questions about the GPE grants.

In addition, Education Advocacy staff will arrange for conference calls with GPE applicants (i.e., share updated information and provide clarification on such issues as requirement for underserved population). If you are interested in participating in one of these calls, please contact Amanda Ring (aring@apa.org); and be sure to specify if your application is for a general GPE grant or a geropsychology grant.

Eligibility Related Questions

- ✓ **What kinds of settings are eligible for GPE Grants?**
APA accredited health profession schools, universities, and other public or private entities.
- ✓ **Are post-doctoral programs eligible?**
Yes, post-doctoral programs are eligible.
- ✓ **Are VA Sites Eligible for GPE grants?**
Yes, VA sites are eligible for GPE funding, as long as they are APA accredited. Note: They are only eligible for direct costs, not indirect costs.
- ✓ **Are for-profit programs/sites eligible?**
No, as per federal regulation, for-profit programs/sites are not eligible.
- ✓ **What are the “underserved” populations?**
These include children, the chronically ill, and victims of abuse or terror. *There is a separate application and stream of funds for the geropsychology training.* In addition emphasis is on rural communities.

- ✓ **Is it helpful for me to work with our Grants Officer?**
Yes, we very much encourage you to work with your local Grants Officer in developing your proposal.

Accreditation Question

- ✓ **What kind of accreditation must I have in order to be eligible for GPE funding?**
The program must be APA Accredited in order to be eligible for GPE funding.

Student Stipend Questions

- ✓ **Can I use GPE funds to pay for Student Stipends?**
YES, we were told that student stipends will be an allowable use of funds for doctoral, internship and postdoctoral students. However, tuition may NOT be included in student stipends.

Underserved Communities Questions

- ✓ **Are there requirements regarding “underserved” areas in addition to underserved populations?**
Yes, in order to be competitive for a GPE grant, there is a “funding preference” regarding designated “underserved communities”. A preference will be given to those applicants that have a high rate (20%) of placing graduates in underserved areas (*see list below of underserved categories and web sites for getting info on each*) in one of the last 2 years OR show a significant increase in the rate of placing graduates in underserved areas. [These can be an approximate number.]

The list of underserved areas, and websites for locating information about your communities are provided below:

- **Medically Underserved Communities/Areas –**
<http://bphc.hrsa.gov/databases/newmua/>

As defined in section 799B(6) of the Public Health Service Act, medically underserved community means an urban or rural area or population that:

- (1) Is eligible for designations under section 332 of the Public Health Service Act as a health professional shortage area;
- (2) Is eligible to be served by a migrant health center (MHC), a community health center (CHC), a grantee relating to homeless individuals, or a

grantee relating to residents of public housing under section 330 of the PHS Act;

(3) Has a shortage of personal health services, as determined under criteria issued by the Secretary under section 1861(aa)(2) of the Social Security Act (relating to rural health clinics); or

(4) Is designated by a State governor (in consultation with the medical community) as a shortage area or medically underserved community.

- **Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA's); Mental Health HPSA's; and Primary Care (Medical) HPSA's –**

- <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/databases/newhpsa/newhpsa.cfm>

- **Community Health Centers; Migrant Health Centers; Health Care for the Homeless; Public Housing Primary Care; and Federally Qualified Health Centers –** <http://www.circlesolutions.com/pc/>

- **Rural Health Clinics –** <http://www.nrharural.org/nosorh/offices.html>
(This link will take you to a page that will provide contact information for all 50 states Offices of Rural Health. These offices should be able to help you find the rural health clinics in your state.)

- **Indian Health Service Sites –**

- http://www.ihs.gov/FacilitiesServices/AreaOffices/AreaOffices_index.asp

More information about underserved areas in your state is available at the state Primary Care Organization/Primary Care Association:

State Primary Care Organizations (PCOs)

<http://bphc.hrsa.gov/OSNP/PCODirectory.htm>

State Primary Care Associations (PCAs)

<http://bphc.hrsa.gov/OSNP/PCADirectory.htm>

Interdisciplinary Requirement

✓ **What is meant by “Interdisciplinary”; and how can I be sure that I’ve met that requirement?**

We have been told that “interdisciplinary” means that psychology students must be trained with health professional students from one or more other disciplines (i.e., physicians, nurses, physical therapists, social workers). *Reviewers look favorably upon work with more than one other discipline.*

Healthy People 2010 Requirement

- ✓ **What is the “Healthy People 2010” requirement?**
Applicants are asked to summarize the relationship of their project to *Healthy People 2010*. This document contains 467 objectives in 28 health-related focus areas. A comprehensive listing of the 31 objectives potentially relevant to geropsychology has been compiled by the Office on Aging and is available by contacting ddigilio@apa.org. The easiest way to view all 467 objectives and their supporting documentation, is to go to: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/tableofcontents.htm#volume1> and scroll down to the objectives section, and click on the desired focus area.

Peer Review Question

- ✓ **Peer Review – why haven’t I heard anything yet?**
BHPPr always waits for applications to come in before contacting potential panelists; they also need to figure out how many panels will actually be necessary.

Contact Information

- ✓ **Who should I contact if I have additional questions?**
For technical assistance, contact Marcia Starbecker of the Bureau of Health Professions (Phone: 301/443-6876; Email mstarbecker@hrsa.gov).

For general questions about the GPE program and APA efforts to gain increased funding for the only federal program solely dedicated to the education and training of psychology, contact: Amanda Ring
aring@apa.org