

2007 ANNOUNCEMENT

INTRODUCTION

In keeping with the mission of the Sisters of Mercy, it is with great pleasure that the Sisters of Mercy Health System (Mercy) announces the request for proposals to Catherine's Fund which was established in the name of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. Funding will support a community-based initiative that is responsive to an unmet health need identified and substantiated by the local communities served by Mercy.

PURPOSE

To respond to issues that improve the community's health and quality of life -
especially that of economically poor persons -
by promoting the development of effective, community-based initiatives
and collaborative partnerships that include broad community participation.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A Mercy Strategic Service Unit, any of its controlled affiliates or subsidiary entities is eligible. The initiative must be endorsed by the SSU Board Chair and its CEO.

INITIATIVE CRITERIA

Catherine's Fund Committee will consider proposals for new initiatives and/or new components of existing community programs that demonstrate a positive effect on the community's health and quality of life. Proposed initiatives must meet the following criteria:

MISSION

- Consistent with Mercy's mission, vision and values
- Supportive of Mercy Service Standards
- Preferentially focused on economically poor persons

COLLABORATION

- Establishes effective relationships within the local community
- Involves people served in assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of the initiative
- Includes broad community involvement
- Demonstrates SSU and community commitment to ensure initiative sustainability after the funding cycle

FUNDING

Mercy will provide \$1 million over a three-year period to fund the proposal(s). The Catherine's Fund Committee will have the flexibility to consider more than one proposal for funding but the total funds will not exceed \$1 million in three years. The funding cycle begins July 2007.

CATHERINE'S FUND APPLICATION PROCESS

LETTER OF INTENT : JANUARY 8 – FEBRUARY 23, 2007

An initial screening process will be used to reduce the workload of interested applicants. To begin the application process, a Letter of Intent (LOI) must be received at the office of the Sisters of Mercy Health System (Attention Diana Silvey) no later than February 23, 2007. The Letter of Intent is not to exceed four pages, single-spaced, one-sided, not including letters of support from collaborative partners and community needs assessment data.

The Letter of Intent must follow exactly the outline format included in this packet. Applicants must respond to each Letter of Intent Outline item, in order, and so labeled, or risk disqualification from initial screening process. All questions regarding the Letter of Intent content and process should be referred to Diana Silvey, Sisters of Mercy Health System, 14528 S. Outer 40 Road, Ste. 100, Chesterfield, MO, 63017, Phone: (314) 628-3675.

LETTER OF INTENT FINALIST SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION: FEBRUARY 24 – MARCH 31, 2007

The Catherine's Fund Committee will review Letters of Intent and identify finalists eligible to submit a Catherine's Fund grant proposal. Part of the selection process may include a site visit from the Catherine's Fund Committee.

Letters of Intent finalists will be notified of their eligibility to submit formal grant proposals. The outline for completing the grant proposal will be shared at this time.

GRANT PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT: APRIL 1 – MAY 18, 2007

Using the Catherine's Fund Proposal Application Outline, applicants will prepare their proposals.

GRANT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION: MAY 18, 2007

Grant Proposals must be received at the office of the Sisters of Mercy Health System (Attention Diana Silvey) no later than May 18, 2007.

GRANT SELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

Ron Ashworth, President/CEO, will announce in late June the initiative(s) selected by the Catherine's Fund Committee and approved by the Mercy Board of Directors. Funding will be available beginning July 2007.

INITIATIVE OPERATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Mid-year and annual progress/evaluation and financial reports and a summary evaluation at the end of the three-year funding cycle will be required. All reports will be forwarded to Diana Silvey, Catherine's Fund Liaison, at the Sisters of Mercy Health System.

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