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PUBLIC NOTICE

HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES BRANCH

NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH AND

TREATMENT OF AUTISM

Notice of Availability of Grants Funds

Cost Reimbursement Grants to Support Up to Three Clinical Research Program Sites Capable of Advancing the Mission of the New Jersey Autism Center of Excellence

Take notice that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4 et seq. (P.L. 1987, c. 7), the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) hereby announces the availability of funding for the grant program described below.

Name of grant program: The New Jersey Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism, New Jersey Autism Center of Excellence Program Sites.

Grant program number: 12-AUC-4.

Statutory authority: An Act concerning medical research and treatment of autism, amending and supplementing P.L. 1999, c. 105 and amending P.L. 2001, c. 338 and P.L. 2003, c. 144, commonly known as "The New Jersey Autism Biomedical Research Act," P.L. 2007, c. 168 (approved September 12, 2007); N.J.S.A. 30:6D-56 et seq.

Type of awards to be issued: Cost reimbursement grants.

Purpose for which the grant program funds will be used: The purpose of this grant program is to support up to three clinical research program sites capable of advancing the mission of the New Jersey Autism Center of Excellence (NJ ACE). The mission of the NJ ACE is to research, apply and advance best practices in the understanding, prevention, evaluation and treatment of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), enhancing the lives of individuals across their life spans.

The NJ ACE will consist of several program sites and a coordinating center. The Notice of Availability of Grant Funds to establish the NJ ACE Coordinating Center appears elsewhere in this issue of the New Jersey Register. Institutions and entities interested in applying to be the NJ ACE Coordinating Center may apply under a separate application to be a NJ ACE Program Site, but only one of these grants can be awarded to a specific department or team within the same institution/entity. If separate teams or departments at a large institution or entity wish to apply for and receive grants under both grant programs 12-AUC-3 and 12-AUC-4, there can be no overlap of personnel or duties between the proposed NJ ACE Coordinating Center and the proposed NJ ACE Program Site.

The NJ ACE Program Sites grant program grantees will develop and conduct clinical research projects that have the potential to improve the physical and/or behavioral health and well-being of individuals with ASDs. The projects will address one of the short or long-term objectives described in the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) Strategic Plan (<http://iacc.hhs.gov/strategic-plan/2012/index.shtml>).

To advance the goal of widespread data sharing among ASD researchers, investigators funded under the NJ ACE Program Sites Grant Program are expected to share those data via the National Database for Autism Research (NDAR). See the program guidelines at www.nj.gov/health/autism or at www.sage.nj.gov and the NDAR website (ndar.nih.gov) for more details.

The NJ ACE Coordinating Center, established pursuant to the NJ ACE Coordinating Center grant program described in the notice that appears elsewhere in this issue of the New Jersey Register, will provide common management and support functions to unify the NJ ACE Program Sites, increase efficiency, and reduce costs. The Coordinating Center will unify the NJ ACE Program Sites by serving as the voice of the NJ ACE, and promoting the sharing of best practices in the conduct of clinical research and lessons learned. The Coordinating Center will also provide project assistance and training as needed. Areas of support that the Coordinating Center is to provide include, but are not limited to, advising sites regarding Institutional Review Board issues, developing tools and standard operating procedures for data entry, management and submission to NDAR, organizing training sessions, as needed, for the use of clinical instruments such as the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS), providing biostatistics consultation services, and organizing regular meetings of the Program Site Program Directors and Principal Investigators. Finally, the Coordinating Center will conduct a multi-method, cross-site evaluation to assess context, implementation, participation, and achievement of yearly project objectives, and provide feedback and support to the Program Sites as needed.

The application must present the detailed yearly objectives that will demonstrate progress. In some cases, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) may suggest modifications to the yearly objectives or require additional objectives before awarding the grant. Grantees must describe in detailed yearly progress reports their actions towards meeting these objectives. Grantees will need to meet their stated objectives, or clearly demonstrate how they are moving towards achieving those objectives, as a condition of funding for the following year. If grantees meet some but not all yearly objectives, the New Jersey Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism (Council) reserves the right to bring in reviewers to assess whether progress is adequate and, as may be necessary, to design a remediation plan.

Amount of funds in the grant program: A combined total of up to \$8,000,000 for a period of five years will be made available for grant programs 12-AUC-3 and 12-AUC-4. The Council reserves the right to distribute funds among the grants in the programs 12-AUC-3 and 12-AUC-4. The Council reserves the right not to fund any grant in these programs to the maximum amount, or not to fund any grant in these programs at all.

Applicants must comply with the following to qualify for a grant:

1. Terms and Conditions for the Administration of Grants;
2. General and specific grant compliance requirements issued by the granting agency; and
3. Applicable Federal Cost Principles relating to the applicant.

Groups or entities that may apply for the grant program: Public and private non-profit research entities in the State of New Jersey may apply for a Council grant under this program. A qualifying research entity is defined as any academic institution, research organization, public or private non-profit entity, located in the State of New Jersey, with a demonstrated capability to conduct grant funded research, but in no case can an individual be a qualifying research entity. The qualified research entity shall have established procedures to receive and administer Federal and State grants, including a Grant Administration Office (or equivalent) that is responsible for overseeing grant programs, procedures for the protection of human subjects as regulated by the National Institutes of Health, and an Institutional Review Board (IRB) that will approve proposed research.

Qualifications needed by applicant to be considered for a grant: Any individuals with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Program Director/Principal Investigator are invited to work with their organizations to develop an application for support. Applicants must affiliate with a New Jersey State academic institution, research organization, or public or private non-profit entity with a demonstrated capability to conduct grant-funded research, as defined above. The Council will not award grants to unaffiliated individuals. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Individuals of any nationality or citizenship status may apply provided that they are employed by or affiliated with a qualifying research entity.

Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with clinical sites in New Jersey in order to ensure sufficient patient recruitment. Applicants are further encouraged to

collaborate with researchers in New Jersey, out-of-State, or out of the United States who could contribute additional professional expertise and/or consultation. The structure of the collaborative arrangement should be described in the application.

Application procedures: The Council will only accept for review applications submitted electronically through the New Jersey System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE) (www.sage.nj.gov). The Council will not accept grant applications sent by telefacsimile.

After an applicant logs on to the SAGE, the applicant's organization representative must authorize the applicant as an approved user and assign the applicant to the grant before the application can be accessed. Before logging on to SAGE, applicants should refer to the "Instructions for On-line Grant Applications" under "Grant Opportunities" on the Council's website (www.nj.gov/health/autism).

Deadline by which applications must be submitted: The deadline for the electronically submitted grant applications is 5:00 P.M. on Monday, March 19, 2012. In addition, the Council must receive from the applicant two hard copies of the application (one being a signed original) at the Council's office, provided below, by 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 21, 2012. No exceptions will be made.

Date by which applicants shall be notified whether they will receive funds:
June 1, 2012.

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