

Program Area and Discipline: General Dentistry
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College of Dental Medicine
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Disciplines Involved in the Proposal: General Dentistry

Abstract

The proposed project aims to develop and implement an oral health educational and training program at Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine (NSU-CDM) which focuses on domestic violence. This initiative builds upon established relationships with community-based and governmental agencies while forging new collaborations with agencies that provide shelter and services to victims of domestic violence. This initiative emphasizes three major components: education, training and increased access to care. Education will be provided to AEGD dental residents through the development of a new, comprehensive curriculum focusing on the cultural competencies needed to recognize and respond to victims of domestic violence. Training will be offered to AEGD dental residents who will rotate through community-based agencies that offer shelter and services to victims of domestic violence. In addition, through mobile or portable dental equipment, oral health services will be provided on-site at two community-based organizations that provide shelter and services to victims of domestic violence and their children.

Needs: Victims of domestic violence may have a constellation of facial injuries, including lacerations, bruising, and fractures. However, many dentists are unaware of the relationship between head and neck injury and possible abuse. Currently, dental schools and dental hygiene programs have fragmented information, if any, about domestic violence in their curriculum. While there is a body of research dealing with identifying effective approaches to educating and training dentists to assess or treat domestic violence, there is no evidence that dental schools have integrated this into an existing curriculum. The proposed program will develop an innovative, cutting edge curriculum which will educate and train AEGD residents in the cultural competencies needed to recognize and respond to domestic violence. The AEGD residents will then rotate through partner agencies to deliver dental services to victims of domestic violence.

Goals and Objectives:

Goal One: To improve the oral health of victims of domestic violence through an expanded oral health partnership between Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine (NSU-CDM) and community-based partners.

Objectives

1. Increase access to oral health care for victims of domestic violence.
2. Increase the number of advanced education in general dentistry (AEGD) residents who are prepared to provide culturally competent care to victims of domestic violence.

Goal Two: To educate and train AEGD residents on how to recognize and respond to domestic violence and the dental management of these patients.

Objectives

1. Develop a definitive, comprehensive oral health curriculum for AEGD residents.
2. Enhance AEGD residents' patient delivery skills to victims of domestic violence through clinical rotations at partner agencies.

Areas of Special Consideration:

The specific objectives have been formulated to meet the legislative purposes of the grant program. These objectives are focused on improving education curricula, improving access to oral health care for underserved victims of domestic violence, and improving the oral health of underserved victims of domestic violence.

This project will address the stated purposes of the Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry grants and some of the overall goals of HRSA's Bureau of Health Professions, including providing access to quality care through appropriate preparation of the health professions workforce.

Additionally, one of the two goals of this project is to improve the oral health of victims of domestic violence. In doing so, this project will help to address a major goal of Healthy People 2010: Eliminate our country's health disparities.

The second goal of the proposed project is to emphasize the preparation of general dental practitioners to care for underserved populations and their oral health needs; by doing so, this program also aims to promote careers in primary care. Specifically, this project will address the delivery of culturally competent oral health care to victims of domestic violence.

Request for Funding Priorities:

We are requesting 1) the Primary Care Priority and 2) the Disadvantaged Priority. We are requesting the Primary Care Priority and document that 94% of the 2003 AEGD program completers have remained in primary care practice three years after completing training. We are requesting the Disadvantaged Priority based on the NSU-CDM AEGD Program's record of training individuals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds. Of the current AEGD residents for Academic Year 2007-2008, one hundred percent (100%) are underrepresented minorities or disadvantaged. For 2006 program completers, fifty-two percent (52%) are underrepresented or disadvantaged. The program completers for 2007 are ninety percent (90%) underrepresented or disadvantaged.