LIMITED SUBMISSION: DHHS Understanding and Addressing the Disparity in Vaccination Coverage Among U.S. Adolescents Living in Rural Versus Urban Areas

****PLEASE NOTE: ONE (1) PROPOSAL FROM TUFTS MAY BE NOMINATED****

DEADLINES:
Tufts Internal Email of Intent Deadline: December 27 by noon
Sponsor Deadline: January 16, 2018 (letter of intent)
February 13, 2018 (full proposal)

For those interested, please send an email of intent to the Limited Submissions Team at limitedsubmissions@tufts.edu informing us of an intention to apply. EOI’s received after the deadline will not be considered. The email of intent must include:

1. The name of the solicitation,
2. The name of the Principal Investigator, and any co-PI's,
3. A 2-3 sentence description of the proposed project.

Should the number of interested applicants exceed the number allowed by the funder, an internal selection process will be conducted by the Office of the Vice Provost for Research, and candidates will be notified to submit internal application materials. All candidates will be notified of results. NB: Successful applications must include official notification from the Limited Submissions Team in order to submit. For more information, please see http://viceprovost.tufts.edu/resources/funding/limited-submissions/

PROGRAM INFORMATION: The purpose of this notice of funding opportunity is to: 1) obtain a better understanding of the factors contributing to disparities in vaccination coverage observed between adolescents living in rural areas compared to adolescents living in urban areas within the United States for all recommended vaccines, with a special emphasis on human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine; and 2) implement and evaluate an intervention(s) to improve vaccination coverage among adolescents living in rural areas. The National Immunization Survey-Teen (NIS-Teen) is a telephone survey that monitors vaccination coverage among adolescents aged 13-17 years in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and selected local areas and territories. Coverage estimates are based on provider verified vaccination histories. The 2016 NIS-Teen survey highlighted a previously unknown disparity in vaccination coverage between adolescents living in rural and urban areas of the United States. According to the 2016 survey, adolescents living in rural areas had significantly lower coverage for the first dose of human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine – approximately 15.5 percentage points lower than for adolescents living in urban, central city areas. Adolescents living in rural areas also had significantly lower HPV Up-To-Date coverage, approximately 14.8 percentage points lower than their urban counterparts.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS: The award recipient will lead the design and implementation of this study, including:

• Selection of the geographic area(s) to be included in the study.
• The development of a partnership with the state/local immunization program(s) in the geographic area(s) included in the study.
• The development of an appropriate study design to assess factors associated with the observed disparity in vaccination coverage among adolescents living in rural versus urban areas. This includes identification of an appropriate sampling frame, strategy for recruiting participants, development of data collection instruments, analysis plan and plan for dissemination of findings. The study should include an assessment of barriers and
Limited Submissions Committee

challenges of adolescent vaccination from the perspective of 1) parents/families living in rural versus urban areas, and 2) healthcare providers practicing in rural versus urban areas.

- Use of the findings from the study to identify barriers to vaccination in rural areas and to develop and implement an intervention(s) to address these barriers to vaccination in rural communities.
- The development of an appropriate study design to evaluate the intervention, including: identification of an appropriate sampling frame, strategy for recruiting participants, development of data collection instruments, analysis plan, and dissemination of findings.

While there is no requirement that the results of the study be generalizable to the entire country, they should be applicable to adolescents living in rural areas broadly, reflecting diversity by race/ethnicity and geography at a minimum. The target population should be considered when designing and implementing this study (e.g., language barriers, internet access, etc.).

Project objectives include:

1. Assess the following from parents/guardians living in rural and urban areas:
   - Access to vaccination services for their adolescent(s);
   - Quality of vaccination services they receive;
   - Knowledge, attitudes, beliefs (KAB) toward vaccination, in general;
   - Knowledge, attitudes, beliefs toward adolescent vaccines with emphasis on HPV vaccine;
   - Perceived barriers to adolescent vaccination;
   - Receipt of a provider recommendation for HPV vaccination for their adolescent(s).

2. Assess among immunization providers practicing in rural and urban areas:
   - Knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs toward vaccination of adolescents;
   - Practices for providing and recommending vaccines for adolescents;
   - Perceived barriers to providing vaccination services.

3. Analyze data in order to identify factors associated with urban/rural disparities in adolescent vaccination coverage.

4. Apply the information gained from the first three objectives to develop, implement, and evaluate an intervention to improve vaccination coverage among adolescents living in rural areas.

Applicant organizations will partner with one or more of the 64 public health department jurisdictions that receive federal Immunization Program funding (see funding opportunity for details of letter of support required).

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION: There are no limits or restrictions on who may serve as PI

AWARD INFORMATION: The estimated total funds available, including direct and indirect costs, for the entire three (3)-year project period is $1,050,000. The anticipated number of awards will be one (1)

FURTHER INFORMATION: https://www.grants.gov/custom/viewOppDetails.jsp?oppld=295266

NOTE: Program announcement instructions supersede instructions delivered in this document.