

April 9, 2001

Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Programs
Center for Scientific Review
National Institute of Health
Suite 1040
6701 Rockledge Drive MSC-7710
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7710

Reference: Letter of transmittal for GFA Number SP 01-002: State Incentive Cooperative Agreements for Community-Based Action

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of the State of Mississippi and the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, I am submitting Mississippi's proposal for the State Incentive Cooperative Agreements for Community-Based Action. A member of my staff will serve on the Cooperative Agreement Advisory Committee that will oversee the development and implementation of the initiative's prevention strategy in Mississippi.

The abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs touches almost every family in our state and the costs, both emotionally and financially, are astronomical. Mississippi is committed to prevention. As Governor of Mississippi, I will provide leadership to ensure that the interagency collaboration and co-funding strategies called for in this grant are maximized. Through the involvement of this project with Mississippi agencies and other nonprofit entities, particularly through the Mississippi Executive Prevention Council (MEPC), I am convinced that we are in a unique position to establish this project as one that makes a difference to Mississippians. There is little doubt that prevention is the smartest and most workable long-term investment in the fight against substance abuse.

If you need additional information about this project application, please call Dr. Randy Hendrix, Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, or Mr. Roger McMurtry, Chief of the Bureau of Mental Health in that agency, at 601-359-1288. Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr