

Colorectal Dialogue For Action Project

What is the Colorectal Dialogue For Action Project?

The Colorectal Dialogue For Action Project is a cooperative agreement between the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation (CRPF) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The *Dialogue* project is designed to engage the broad diversity of colorectal cancer screening stakeholders throughout a state in a highly interactive and collaborative process. This process offers states a unique opportunity to foster consensus building on strategies and action plans to implement the colorectal cancer screening goals and objectives, as defined in their comprehensive cancer control plans. The *Dialogue for Action* project culminates in an innovative conference to advance strategies and action plans for prevention and early detection of colorectal cancer in underserved populations.

How does it work?

With in-depth technical assistance from CRPF, a state planning committee works over a year's time to design and develop a day-long statewide conference. The planning committee should include: Primary care provider, Gastroenterologist, Colorectal surgeon, Health department and other government agency personnel, Third-party payer, Service provider, Health educator, Representatives of priority populations and Researcher. The committee exchanges ideas, develops a shared vision, and commits to concrete steps toward accomplishing its state's colorectal cancer screening objectives. The benefits that the *Dialogue* process brings to a state begin with the installation of the planning committee and continue after the meeting with implementation of colorectal cancer objectives.

Is funding available for this colorectal project?

Yes. This is the third year of grant funding for states to participate and applications are due by April 22, 2005. Six states have been funded in the past two years and three more will be funded in 2005. Several states without funding also have conducted colorectal dialogues, with technical assistance from CRPF.

Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible for this opportunity your state *must be a current implementation state* as designated by the National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (NCCCP) as of April 22, 2005. *South Carolina is currently a planning state* and cannot meet this April 22 deadline. However, funding will be available again for 2006 and we should be eligible to apply next year. If South Carolina applied, one application would be submitted from both DHEC and the SC Cancer Alliance (SCCA).

What now?

This information will be shared with SCCA members, including the SCCA Coordinating Council and all Task Forces. A discussion of this topic will be included on the July 2005 Coordinating Council agenda. If there is sufficient interest expressed, an exploratory committee will be formed to discuss this issue in detail, including potential benefits, challenges and a potential timeline.

For more information or to express an opinion on this opportunity, please contact Alan Waln, SCCA Director, at 1-(866) 745-5680 or via email at walna@dhec.sc.gov.