

# **Rural area Health grants available**

HEW's Public Health Service has announced that it will be accepting applications from eligible organizations for grants under the Rural Health Initiative (RHI) and the Health in Underserved Rural Areas (HURA) programs.

According to Dr. David W. Johnson, Regional Health Administrator for HEW's Region X in Seattle, it is anticipated that approximately \$26 million will be available in fiscal year 1977 to fund about 160 new RHI and HURA projects nationally.

Johnson said, "These programs are part of a continuing effort to encourage and support the development of strong, coordinated rural health care systems through federal grants.

He noted that since July 1975, RHI and HURA funds have supported special activities in 15 grant projects in Region X.

"Those grants, ranging from \$50,000 to \$200,000 a year, have served to tie together towns and counties into unified medical care delivery areas, have been used to support costs related to the delivery of primary care service, the renovation of ambulatory facilities, the procurement of needed capital equipment, and the provision of transportation and outreach capabilities at some sites," Johnson said.

He emphasized that applications received will be reviewed both regionally and nationally on a competitive basis, will be ranked according to the merit of the proposals, and will be funded according to the availability of funds.

There will be two review cycles this fiscal year. In the first pre-applications must be submitted to HEW Region X by January 3, 1977 and final applications by February 23.

Deadlines for the second cycle are February 25, 1977 for pre-applications and May 9 for final applications.

Grant awards will be made on May 4 and September 9, 1977, respectively.

Questions and applications should be addressed to: Director Migrant and Comprehensive Care Program, HEW/PHS, Mail Stop 506, 1321 Second Avenue, Seattle 98101. Telephone (206) 442-0513.