



SEPTEMBER 28, 1995

REPORT NO. 95-48(H)

MEMORANDUM FOR: PROJECT DIRECTOR, HEALTH CARE INFORMATION
CONNECTION, MEDICAL CENTER LIBRARIES,
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI, CINCINNATI, OHIO

SUBJECT: Memorandum Survey Report--Review of Health Care Information
Connection (HCIC), ARC Grant No. OH-11187-92, Contract 92-180

PURPOSE

The purposes of our review were (1) to determine the allowability of the costs claimed under the ARC grant, (2) to determine if the grant objectives were met, and (3) to determine the current status of the grant.

SCOPE

Our review included procedures to review costs incurred for reimbursement under the grant as well as costs claimed as matching funds. The initial period of performance for the grant was October 1, 1992 through September 30, 1993 but it was subsequently amended to March 1, 1993 through June 30, 1995. We reviewed the grantee's reports, examined records, and held discussions with grantee officials at the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, August 10-11, 1995. As a basis for determining allowable costs and compliance requirements, we used the provisions of the grant agreement, Office of Management and Budget Circulars A-21, A-110, and the ARC Code.

BACKGROUND

ARC Grant OH-11187-92-I-302-0620 was awarded to the University of Cincinnati to provide assistance for a project designed to deliver current health information to health care providers serving rural areas in Appalachian Ohio. The grant was for the lesser of \$123,750 or 75 percent of actual, reasonable and eligible project costs. The grantee was to provide the non-federal share of \$41,250 or 25 percent in cash, contributed services, or in-kind contributions, as approved by ARC. The grantee was to provide all personnel, services, supplies and facilities necessary to conduct a Health Care Information project in the Appalachian Ohio Counties of Clermont and Brown. The following tasks were to be provided:

- 1) Provide health care practitioners serving Clermont and Brown counties with the most up-to-date health care information possible in a timely and convenient manner;
- 2) Provide better access to accurate and relevant biomedical and psychosocial information to improve the well-being of residents of Appalachian Ohio and to save

the cost of unnecessary procedures, delayed diagnoses and prolonged hospitalizations through better informed health care providers;

- 3) Conduct in-depth information needs assessments in conjunction with clinicians and staff of the four proposed project sites;
- 4) Based on careful analyses of the needs assessments, install health information connection workstations and peripheral resources at the four proposed project sites;
- 5) Implement training programs, predicated on continuous quality improvement principles to promote self-sufficiency in information-seeking and use among all clinicians involved with the proposed project; and
- 6) Conduct on-going assessments of the impact and usefulness of the health information connection to health care providers.

The grant was amended in July 1994 to allow the grantee to use the remaining grant funds (about \$37,000) to deliver information resources to the four sites.

RESULTS

1) Project Expenditures

At the time of our review, the grantee had claimed and been paid \$89,387.86 and \$34,362.14 remained in the ARC account. According to the grantee's financial records, total expenditures for the project were \$133,279.65. Of that amount, \$95,943.77 (72 percent) was charged to ARC and \$37,335.88 (28 percent) was recorded as the grantee's cost share. We reviewed supporting documentation for the grant and cost share expenditures during our on-site visit and grant officials subsequently provided additional information. We determined that the grantee had allowable expenditures to support costs of \$95,943.77.

2) Grant Objectives


The grantee conducted needs assessments and completed the installation of workstations at four sites as planned. They conducted training sessions for users, and provided information to other organizations and the media regarding the HCIC. As a result of this project, health care practitioners at the sites have access to the most up-to-date health care information available. The HCIC is continuously evaluated and modified as required to ensure available information meets the needs of its users.

3) Current Status

The project is expected to continue at three of the four sites with funding obtained from other sources and user fees. (One site was not used as much as officials had hoped.) At the time of our review,

the grantee indicated they would complete a project evaluation and submit final progress and financial reports in September 1995.

Recommendation: We recommend that the grantee complete and submit their final progress and financial reports to ARC as soon as possible in order to facilitate grant closing and deobligation of the remaining \$27,806. A response to this report is not necessary.


Hubert N. Sparks
Inspector General