

Proposal Summary
Meeting Date: 03/11/2019

Northwestern University Request # 115757

Project Title:	Education in Palliative and End of Life Care (EPEC) Program
Duration:	24 months
Request Amount:	\$133,233
Recommended Amount:	\$134,000
Program Area:	Health and Rehabilitation\Education / Support Services
Population Served:	General Public
Type of Support:	Program Support
Location:	Chicago, IL

Organizational Background

EPEC is a program of the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities at Northwestern University. The program is supported by the Institute for Public Health and Medicine (IPHAM), which provides administration, office space, overhead, technical support and website maintenance for the EPEC program. In 1999, EPEC began as a core curriculum for physicians and has grown to be appropriate for all healthcare professionals. EPEC core curriculum is delivered through an annual training event, professional development workshops, and an online learning platform. The annual event “Become an EPEC Trainer”, is a train-the-trainer program, which teaches basic palliative care and instructs clinicians on how to teach palliative care content. Typically, between 40-50 clinicians are trained per event.

Finances (IPHAM)

	Budget	Actual	Actual
	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2017
Revenues	\$14,653,115	\$41,159,604	\$39,877,922
Expenses	\$13,596,548	\$39,139,731	\$36,160,685
Surplus (Deficit)	\$3,717,237	\$2,019,873	\$3,717,237
Net Assets	N/A	N/A	N/A

Annual Revenue Sources

Grants	7%
Fees	28.6%
Government	21%
Private Support	9.7%
Earned Income	33.7%
Other	%

Program Description

EPEC began teaching primary palliative care, and over the years has been tailored to various medical specialties and patient populations. EPEC created curriculum adaptations, such as: *EPEC-Oncology*, *EPEC-Emergency Medicine*, and *EPEC-Pediatrics*. *EPEC for Veterans* was created for the Department of Veterans Affairs, which contains over 20 modules and involved 100 authors.

The EPEC curriculum is taught by a core group of faculty and trainers representing medical institutions from across the country. The curriculum combines in person educational sessions, video presentations, interactive discussions, and practice exercises to teach fundamental palliative care skills in communication, ethical decision making, psychosocial considerations, and symptom management. Core topics include goals of care, advance care planning, depression, pain management, legal issues, gaps in palliative care, and elements and models of end-of-life care.

While the EPEC core curriculum has been updated regularly, the last comprehensive content update was in 2011. Since then, there have been changes in aspects of medication and symptom management and advances in communication approaches. The core curriculum needs to reflect current standards, guidelines, teaching methods, and improve technology capabilities. The objectives of this project are a) to update content; b) create three to five-minute videos that demonstrate clinical scenarios and focus on ethics and decision-making; c) update website to better engage and support over 2,500 core Trainers (+500 pediatric Trainers). EPEC's goal is to increase trainers from 45 to 65 annually over two years.

Strengths / Weaknesses

Strengths

- EPEC was cited in the 2015 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, *Dying in America*, as a key national palliative care educational effort.
- To date, EPEC has been disseminated to over 150,000 health care professionals and mentioned in over 20 publications, e.g. by National Cancer Institute and Center to Advance Palliative Care.
- Collaboration by expert faculty/educators from institutions across the country produces an evidence-based curriculum that is appropriate for various medical audiences.

Weaknesses

- EPEC core curriculum has not been updated in many years. While EPEC is sustained by program revenue, it lacks revenue to update training and revise curriculum, which is usually grant funded.

Why Fund?

The growing number of people with a serious or life limiting illness; national recommendations for providing palliative care at diagnosis; and the low number of palliative care specialists has created a large gap in the workforce. Primary palliative care education teaching core competencies is being utilized to help close the gap in the workforce shortage. EPEC is a model training program, which boasts a national/international reputation and continues to be sought by healthcare professionals, hospitals and organizations, i.e. National Institute of Nursing Research.

In addition, EPEC was a partner with the Coleman Primary Palliative Medicine Training Program (CPPMTP) and has agreed to share the curriculum with the CPPMTP team. This project builds on CFI's efforts to fund education programs for healthcare professionals and local palliative care i.e. CPPMTP, which utilizes aspects of the EPEC curricula to augment training. Funding would enable EPEC to update and enhance training (for which it lacks resources) and continue to generate revenue from trainings to sustain the program.

Prior Grants (specifically for EPEC Program)

Last Grant Date: 05/2018

Number of Prior Grants: 1

Last Grant Amount: \$97,000

Total Amount Granted: \$97,000

Grants Budget (if not general operating)			
Expenditure Category	Recommendation	Other Sources	Total
Salaries (multiple positions)	\$73,233	\$16,382	\$89,615
Project costs	\$60,000	\$5,449	\$65,449
Miscellaneous	\$767		
Totals	\$134,000	\$21,831	\$155,064