

1 percent of the appropriation for any fiscal year beginning with 1970 may be used by the Secretary for the evaluation.

The bill makes clear that regional medical grants can be awarded to a combination of regional medical program agencies for carrying on a regional medical program.

Also, a new authority is added which would permit the awarding of grants to any public or private nonprofit agency or institution for services which will be of substantial value and use to any two or more regional medical programs. Such services might include producing education materials, developing evaluation techniques, creating uniform data-gathering systems, and other types of activities which cannot always be developed most efficiently on the basis of the needs of a single region.

The act is also amended to authorize the use of regional medical program grant funds to permit the full participation of Federal hospitals in regional medical programs as the important community resources which they in fact are.

Another amendment clarifies that a practicing dentist as well as a physician may refer a patient to a facility carrying out research, training, or demonstration activities which are supported by regional medical program funds. Dentists can play an important role in such areas as the early identification of oral cancer, and the amendment corrects an unforeseen limitation in the original act which does not permit such referrals.

An increase in the Advisory Council membership, from 12 members to 16, is provided in the bill, an expansion made necessary by the increasing workload of the Council in reviewing applications and the desirability of having members who reflect a broad diversity of interests.

The bill also extends the provisions of the programs to Guam, American Samoa, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The Hawaii regional medical program has indicated that it would be interested in including these areas in its program.

These provisions will strengthen regional medical programs and will provide the flexibility that will aid in making the most efficient use of all the health elements of the community in the program.

The committee has received copies of the Surgeon General's report on regional medical programs, which describes in detail the initial progress. I would like to submit for the record material which adds to that report and which will bring you up to date on the accomplishments of the regional medical programs.

May I submit that for the record, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. ROGERS. Without objection, it will be received.

(The document referred to follows:)