

Howard Hughes Medical Institute

June 21, 2000



Mr. Clifford Crawford
 Director and Chief Executive Officer
 Morningside Nature Center
 3540 East University Avenue
 Gainesville, Florida 32641

Dear Mr. Crawford:

On behalf of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, it is my pleasure to invite you to submit a proposal for the Institute's *2001 Precollege Science Education Initiative for Science Museums and Related Informal Science Education Institutions* competition. These grants will support outreach from informal science education institutions to children, their families, teachers, and the community. HHMI plans to award four-year grants to 35 to 40 institutions in the aggregate amount of \$12 million; individual grants will range from \$200,000 to \$500,000. The enclosed program announcement provides background on the objectives of the program, key areas that proposals should address, and guidelines for submission.

To develop the list of invited institutions, HHMI staff reviewed past invitee lists and various membership directories, including: The Association of Youth Museums (AYM), the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC), the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), and the American Association of Museums (AAM).

We ask that you submit your proposals via CompetitionCentral, our web-based grant competition system located at www.hhmi.org/grants/competitioncentral. Your institution has been assigned a personal identification number (s8vv3794) and a temporary password (gw38yyqr) to gain access to CompetitionCentral. We recommend visiting early to become familiar with the web-based system and the proposal requirements. The person responsible for developing your institution's proposal should enter CompetitionCentral to provide response and contact information. **An intent to submit a proposal must be provided by July 30, 2000.** Attached are detailed instructions for accessing CompetitionCentral.

Dr. Joseph G. Perpich, Vice President for Grants and Special Programs, and Dr. Dennis WC. Liu, Program Officer, are responsible for the management of this program. Programmatic questions may be directed to Dr. Liu's attention by phone at (301) 215-8760, or email at grantprc@hhmi.org. For technical questions related to the electronic proposal submission, a toll-free number and on-line Help will be available once you have logged into CompetitionCentral.

The deadline for submission of proposals is **September 29, 2000**. Awards will be announced in July, 2001. Applicants will not be informed of the progress of their proposal until the award announcement. We welcome your participation in this program.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Cech, Ph.D.
 President

Enclosures

cc: Dennis WC. Liu
 Joseph G. Perpich