**Section 1126.320 Alternatives to the Proposed Project – Information Requirements**

The applicant shall document that the proposed project is the most effective or least costly alternative for meeting the SMHRF needs of the population to be served by the project.

a) The applicant shall address alternatives to the proposed project. Examples of alternative options include:

1) Proposing a project of greater or lesser scope and cost;

2) Pursuing a joint venture or similar arrangement with one or more providers; and

3) Developing alternative settings to meet all or a portion of the project's intended purposes.

b) Documentation shall consist of a comparison of the project to alternative options.  The comparison shall address issues of cost, resident/patient access, quality and financial benefits in both the short term (within one to three years after project completion) and long term.  This may vary by project or situation.

c) The applicant shall provide empirical evidence, including quantified outcome data that verifies improved quality of care, as available.