

FAQs: CK21-2106: Global Fungal Disease Surveillance and Capacity

Eligibility

1. What organizations are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity (CK21-2106)?

This funding opportunity has maximum competition. Eligible organizations include, but are not limited to, governmental organizations and agencies, non-governmental organizations, charities, private organizations or associations, and teaching institutions. All eligible organizations must demonstrate a history of executing global public health activities, preferably global fungal public health activities.

2. Are foreign entities allowed to apply?

Yes, foreign entities may apply if they demonstrate a history of work within fungal disease surveillance or capacity building. All applicants must demonstrate history of capacity to execute global fungal public health work.

General Questions

1. Are letters of intent (LOI) to apply required?

Applicants are encouraged but not required to submit a letter of intent to apply. Additional details are included in the NOFO. Letters of intent are due by **June 28, 2021**.

2. Can you tell us more about the benefit of submitting an LOI?

CDC encourages, but does not require, a letter of intent to be submitted by **June 28th** so that the CDC funding opportunity development team may appropriately plan for the objective review. Recipients will not be penalized in any way if they choose not to send in a letter of intent.

3. Who is encouraged to submit the optional LOI?

All organizations who intend to submit an application are encouraged, but not required, to submit a Letter of Intent (see previous FAQ).

4. Are letters of support required? Is there a limit to how many letters of support may be submitted?

As noted in the section titled "Organizational Capacity of Recipients to Implement the Approach," letters of support are encouraged for documenting organizational capacity, and a maximum of five can be submitted. Letters of support are not required, but may strengthen your application's approach and organizational capacity.

5. What does it mean to be approved but unfunded (ABU)?

All applicants who apply and are deemed eligible through an objective review panel will be placed on an approved but unfunded (ABU) list. There is a limited amount of funding available at the time of this award, so a small number of ABU recipients may receive funding via a Notice of Award (NOA) by September 30, 2021. Notices for future funding opportunities will be announced to all ABU recipients, as public health need and funding becomes available.

6. Can ABU recipients be funded out of rank order?

Yes. The decision on who will be funded may be based on the public health need, not based on rank order.

7. If the capacities of an ABU recipient changes during the course of the 5-year cooperative agreement, may ABU recipients be removed from the ABU list?

Yes, however this action would be taken upon the request of the individual ABU recipient and in collaboration with CDC's Office of Grant Services "during the initial 12 months of the NOFO".

8. Will some cooperative agreement recipients be funded in this first round of awards?

Yes, there is a limited amount of funding available in this initial round of awards that may be dispersed to select recipients.

9. What is the smallest award possible on this cooperative agreement?

It is possible that some cooperative agreement recipients may not receive funding through this cooperative agreement. Additional funding opportunities will be made available to appropriate ABU recipients once CDC has determined that a fungal public health threat exists and funding is available to prevent and control the threat.

10. What is the time period of the opportunity?

Upon selection, recipients are eligible for awards each year for the 5 years of the cooperative agreement, pending public health need and availability of appropriations. Individual projects can vary in length, scope, and funding.

11. How many awards will be made?

The number of awards made will depend on the applications submitted and funds available. There is no set number of awards that will be made, but we approximate about ten.

12. What is the total funding over the period of performance?

The total anticipated period of performance funding is \$2,500,000.

13. What is the expected yearly award?

The yearly award will depend on the number of years of total work, number of total awards made, and the funds that are available. There is no set yearly award amount, but we anticipate the average one-year award will be \$50,000.

14. If CDC were to receive additional funding, is there a mechanism for additional funds to go towards this opportunity?

As noted in the NOFO, the number of awards is subject to funding availability. If additional fungal disease funding becomes available to CDC, CDC would consider awarding additional funds under this mechanism.

15. What are the main strategies targeted by this notice of funding opportunity?

Strategies for this NOFO are four-fold: increase fungal surveillance by building epidemiology and laboratory capacity; support identification of known and emerging fungal pathogens for timely response; promote workforce development and provide

training in the prevention and control of fungal diseases and increase awareness of fungal disease among the public; and monitor and evaluate the impact of these interventions and assess and refine performance metrics. These strategies are intended to promote health equity at the programmatic, infrastructural and policy levels. This NOFO recognizes that recipients may work to build the capacity to prevent and control specific fungal pathogens or may respond to emerging fungal pathogens or issues, such as antimicrobial resistance.

16. Are we expected to have subcontracts in place in the proposal to demonstrate ability for the two projects?

No, we do not expect subcontracts to be in place at the time of application. Applicants may wish to include an intent to award a subcontract.

17. Will we be expected to carry out the proposed projects or are they just to demonstrate capacity for selection purpose?

Submission of an application indicates willingness to conduct the activities. However, the applicant is not obligated to conduct the activities until an award is made.

18. What kind of budget information is needed?

You should prepare a budget that is reasonable for executing the fungal public health activities that align with the strategies of the NOFO.

19. Any restrictions on indirect percentages besides approved HHS /CDC organization rates?

Yes, any non-Federal entity that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate, may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely.

20. If we do not have an IDC rate, can we use 10% de-minimis rate for indirect?

If a non-Federal entity has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate, they may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). This rate may be used indefinitely.

21. May an applicant submit more than one project if they have different scopes?

No. Each organization is asked to submit one application with one project plan. However, each applicant may propose multiple target populations and program strategies.

22. Do the projects being proposed need to be brand new or can they expand or build on existing programs?

Proposed projects can build upon existing programs, although the proposed activities cannot duplicate existing grants or cooperative agreements.

23. Can you select more than one fungal pathogen?

Applicants may propose projects for any fungal pathogens or write their proposal broadly to cover multiple fungal pathogens as long as the work aligns with the strategies outlined in the NOFO.

24. What will identify a stronger application from a weaker application?

Strongest applicants will:

- Provide critical capacity building services, surveillance of fungal pathogens, training/education, and/or organizational support to improve clinical and public health outcomes through the prevention and control of fungal diseases
- Demonstrate the capacity to reach international populations, support health care professionals with prevention and control of fungal diseases, and a clear history of conducting global fungal public health activities
- Conduct activities that align with program strategies indicated in the NOFO; and
- Demonstrate an ability to impact and engage populations with increased risk of contracting fungal diseases

25. Where should the applications be uploaded?

Applications should be submitted through [Search Grants | GRANTS.GOV](#). Applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM U.S. Eastern Time on July 27, 2021. The applicant is strongly encouraged to review the NOFO and comply with all required registrations as early as possible to ensure successful submission. If the application is not submitted by the deadline, it will not be processed.