

Amendment I (3/1/2012):

i) Questions and answers:

- 1. Could CDC please specify if the M&E strategic plan referenced in the RFA on page 10 is specific to HIV?**

Yes, this M&E strategic plan is specific to HIV.

- 2. Could CDC clarify if the applicant should budget for all M&E and survey activities in the proposal or will these activity costs be covered separately by CDC or another donor (MOH, other)?**

Applicants should budget for all M&E and survey activities in the proposal.

- 3. Re: MO 1.2.1 under Task 1.2 states that four bio-behavioral surveys among female sex workers and long distance truck drivers (two with each group) in Juba and Yambio should be started by the end of Year one. The questions regarding this task are:**

- a. Is MO 1.2.1 specifying that the bio-behavioral stage of the research should be started by the end of year 1, or rather should the formative research phase be underway at the end of year 1, presumably with the bio-behavioral phase to follow?**

The formative phase should be underway and even completed by the end of year one with work already commencing on preparing the bio-behavioral phase. Ideally the bio-behavioral phase would start early in year 2.

- b. Should costs relating to the implementation of the surveys such as supplies for specimen collection, testing kits and staff to conduct data collection be included in the budget for this proposal? Or will the MOH be funded to support these activities?**

Yes, all such costs should be included in the budget for this proposal.

- 4. Task 1.4: The grantee will advise and assist the MOH to conduct a country-wide misclassification survey. The questions regarding this task are:**

- c. Should this activity be planned as part of a larger national population-based sero-survey?**

No, it should not.

- d. *Or should activities be focused on specific populations (eg ANC, VCT or other sentinel groups) in different areas to better quantify the rate of false recent infections?*

New assays for identifying recent HIV infections are prone to misclassification, limiting the accuracy of the incidence estimate. Locally derived and validated adjustment factors can reduce this misclassification. The incidence misclassification survey is used to determine the adjustment factor for South Sudan so that future incidence testing may occur. Such surveys should be done with individuals who are known to be HIV positive. For more information, please see Kim, A. et al. Evaluating the BED capture enzyme immunoassay to estimate HIV incidence among adults in three countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses. 2010. 26(10): 1051-1061.

5. *Many activities are proposed to be completed by year one. Is there flexibility to move activities to other years to balance activities across the four project years?*

There is flexibility for activities related to the Global Fund application process or supervision of Global Fund activities due to recent changes in Global Fund financing procedures.

6. *For the activities to support building capacity of the MOH, is there a preference on the part of the funder to second staff to MOH?*

Applicants are encouraged to identify creative strategies for strengthening MOH capacity. This may or may not include seconding staff to the MOH.

7. *Can it be assumed that MOH has all infrastructure needed to accomplish the tasks described in the RFA or should we budget for them? For example, does the MOH have computers for data analysis described in activity #1.*

Please assume that the MOH has computers for data analysis.

8. *For Task 2.1 and 2.2, is it correct to assume that recipients will develop the DQA methodology that will be implemented?*

Yes, the awardee will develop the DQA methodology that will be implemented in conjunction with CDC and the MOH.

9. *For Task 2.4, is it correct to assume that the evaluations will be developed to answer specific evaluation questions and the both primary data collection and secondary data analysis will be used, depending on evaluation questions?*

Yes.

10. For Task 2.6, is it correct to assume budget is needed for travel to sites and per diems for MOH staff for M&E supervision?

Yes.

11. For Task 2.7, In addition to developing and strengthening paper-based patient tracking system is an electronic system also required?

No.

Table of Contents

Part 1. Overview Information

Part 2. Full Text of the Announcement

Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

Section II. Award Information

Section III. Eligibility Information

Section IV. Application and Submission Information

Section V. Application Review Information

Section VI. Award Administration Information

Section VII. Agency Contacts

Section VIII. Other Information

PART 1. OVERVIEW INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Federal Agency Name: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Funding Opportunity Title: Strengthening Systems, Capacity, and Data Collection with a Focus on Strategic Information in South Sudan under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

Announcement Type: New – Type 1

Agency Funding Opportunity Number: CDC-RFA-GH12-1256

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 93.067

Key Dates:

Application Deadline Date: **April 02, 2012** on Grants.gov, 11:59pm Eastern Standard Time.

Measurable objectives of the program will be in alignment with one (or more) of the following performance goal(s):

Measurable Outcome #1: Surveillance

MO 1.1.1: Support the Ministry of Health (MOH) to develop a surveillance strategic plan by the end of Year one.

MO 1.2.1: Start four bio-behavioral surveys among female sex workers and long distance truck drivers (two with each group) in Juba and Yambio by the end of Year one.

MO 1.2.2: Produce three high quality publishable articles on the bio-behavioral surveys and submit for publication by the end of Year three.

MO 1.3.1: The MOH will implement a functioning case reporting system in Western Equatoria and Central Equatoria and two other states by the end of Year two.

MO 1.3.2: Write an annual report of data from case reporting system by the end of Year two, three, and four.

MO 1.2.3, 1.3.3, 1.4.1, and 1.5.1: Prepare high quality reports including methods, findings and recommendations within three months of completion of each surveillance activity and disseminate at a stakeholders meeting in South Sudan.

MO 1.6.1: Develop a capacity building strategic plan with the MOH and the South Sudan Center for Census, Statistics and Evaluation, and provide hands-on mentorship documented through an annual project report by the end of Year one.

MO 1.7.1: Facilitate at least three data analysis, interpretation and/or use workshops by the end of Year two.

MO 1.8.1: Develop and publish an epidemiologic profile for South Sudan by the end of Years two and four.

MO 1.9.1: Implement a surveillance-centric antenatal clinic/ prevention of mother to child transmission (ANC/PMTCT) data quality assessment by the end of Year two and produce a high quality report within two months of completion.

Measurable Outcome #2: Monitoring and Evaluation

MO 2.1.1: Implement a program-centric PMTCT data quality assessment and disseminate findings and recommendations at a stakeholders meeting by the end of Year one, and produce a high quality report within two months of completion.

MO 2.2.1: Start an HIV testing and counseling (HTC) data quality assessment by the end of Year two and produce a high quality report within two months of completion.

MO 2.3.1: Develop or update the MOH monitoring & evaluation (M&E) strategic plan by the end of Year one.

MO 2.4.1: At least one evaluation conducted and report written by the end of Year three.

MO 2.5.1: Facilitate at least one data analysis, interpretation and/or use workshop by the end of Year two.

MO 2.6.1: Support the MOH to conduct project monitoring and capacity strengthening visits by the end of Year one.

MO 2.7.1: HIV tracking system utilized in 30% of care and treatment facilities in Year one.

Measurable Outcome #3: Capacity Strengthening

MO 3.1.1: Develop capacity building strategic plans with the MOH and the South Sudan Center for Census, Statistics and Evaluation, and provide hands-on mentorship, documented through an annual project report by the end of Year one.

MO 3.2.1: Facilitate at least four data dissemination workshops by the end of Year two.

MO 3.3.1: Support MOH officials from each of the ten states to attend at least two of the following related to areas other than strategic information: one stakeholders meeting, or one training of trainers workshop, or one in-service training by the end of Year one.

MO 3.4.1: Support the Country Coordinating Mechanism(CCM) members to conduct two monitoring visits of Global Fund-related activities and provide technical assistance for two months during the writing of the Global Fund application, and conduct a mock Global Fund Technical Review Panel by the end of Year one.

MO 3.5.1: Support at least two health care worker professional regulatory boards/councils to develop by-laws, membership and strategic plan any time during Years two to four upon availability of funds.

Note: The above measurable objectives match the task numbers under the “Grantee Activities” section of this announcement.

This announcement is only for non-research activities supported by CDC. If research is proposed, the application will not be reviewed. For the definition of research, please see the CDC Web site at the following Internet address:

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/integrity/docs/cdc-policy-distinguishing-public-health-research-nonresearch.pdf>

PART 2. FULL TEXT OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Statutory Authority:

This program is authorized under Public Law 108-25 (the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act of 2003) [22 U.S.C. 7601, et seq.] and Public Law 110-293 (the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008).

Background:

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has called for immediate, comprehensive and evidence based action to turn the tide of global HIV/AIDS. As called for by the PEPFAR Reauthorization Act of 2008, initiative goals over the period of 2009 through 2013 are to treat at least three million HIV infected people with effective combination anti-retroviral therapy (ART); care for twelve million HIV infected and affected persons, including five million orphans and vulnerable children; and prevent twelve million infections worldwide (3,12,12). To meet these goals and build sustainable local capacity, PEPFAR will support training of at least 140,000 new health care workers in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care. The Emergency Plan *Five-Year Strategy* for the five year period, 2009 - 2014 is available at the following Internet address:

<http://www.pepfar.gov>. The overarching purpose of this FOA is to fund activities to prevent or control disease or injury and improve health, or to improve a public health program or service. Recipients may not use funds for research. Certain activities that may require human subjects review due to institutional requirements but that are generally considered *not* to constitute research (e.g., formative assessments, surveys, disease surveillance, program

monitoring and evaluation, field evaluation of diagnostic tests, etc.) may be funded through this mechanism.

Purpose:

Under the leadership of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, as part of the President's Emergency Plan, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (HHS/CDC) works with host countries and other key partners to assess the needs of each country and design a customized program of assistance that fits within the host nation's strategic plan and partnership framework.

HHS/CDC focuses primarily on two or three major program areas in each country. Goals and priorities include the following:

- Achieving primary prevention of HIV infection through activities such as expanding confidential counseling and testing programs linked with evidence based behavioral change and building programs to reduce mother-to-child transmission;
- Improving the care and treatment of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and related opportunistic infections by improving STI management; enhancing laboratory diagnostic capacity and the care and treatment of opportunistic infections; interventions for intercurrent diseases impacting HIV infected patients including tuberculosis (TB); and initiating programs to provide anti-retroviral therapy (ART);
- Strengthening the capacity of countries to collect and use surveillance data and manage national HIV/AIDS programs by expanding HIV/STI/TB surveillance programs and strengthening laboratory support for surveillance, diagnosis, treatment, disease monitoring and HIV screening for blood safety.
- Developing, validating and/or evaluating public health programs to inform, improve and target appropriate interventions, as related to the prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS, TB and opportunistic infections.

In an effort to ensure maximum cost efficiencies and program effectiveness, HHS/CDC also supports coordination with and among partners and integration of activities that promote Global Health Initiative principles. As such, grantees may be requested to participate in programmatic activities that include the following activities:

- Implement a woman- and girl-centered approach;
- Increase impact through strategic coordination and integration;
- Strengthen and leverage key multilateral organizations, global health partnerships and private sector engagement;
- Encourage country ownership and invest in country-led plans;
- Build sustainability through investments in health systems;
- Improve metrics, monitoring and evaluation; and
- Promote research, development and innovation.

The purpose of this announcement is to strengthen HIV strategic information and human resources in South Sudan through the design and implementation of surveillance activities, monitoring and evaluation of existing programs, human resources and other system development, and technical assistance and training for the South Sudan Ministry of Health, US Government (USG) partners, and government of South Sudan stakeholders. This announcement will also allow for the following: expansion of existing HIV surveillance activities in South Sudan, the capacity strengthening for the South Sudan Ministry of Health and the South Sudan Center for Census, Statistics, and Evaluation in surveillance and strategic information; facilitating and supporting consultations leading to development of national policy and guidelines, and the strengthening of information and information systems related to other HIV/AIDS technical areas including, prevention, care, treatment; and targeted health systems strengthening for all HIV/AIDS technical areas in South Sudan.

As the Emergency Plan focuses on improved information systems for the planning and implementation of HIV/AIDS programs, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Global HIV/AIDS (CDC/DGHA) will provide technical guidance and support and develop capacity and understanding of surveillance methodologies within the

recipient organization as well as other USG partners and government of South Sudan institutions. Strategic information activities, such as, monitoring the HIV/AIDS epidemic through surveillance, will inform the response of CDC, the MOH, and other donors to South Sudan's HIV/AIDS epidemic. Systems development and strengthening will lay the foundation for future public health activities and improve current interventions.

Program Implementation

Recipient Activities:

Partners receiving HHS/CDC funding must place a clear emphasis on developing local indigenous capacity to deliver HIV/AIDS related services to the *South Sudanese* population and must also coordinate with activities supported by *South Sudanese*, international or USG agencies to avoid duplication. Capacity-building plans should address systems, policy, organizational and workforce requirements for strengthening sustainable indigenous capacity to respond to the epidemic. Partners receiving HHS/CDC funding must collaborate across program areas whenever appropriate or necessary to improve service delivery.

The selected applicant(s) of these funds is responsible for activities in multiple program areas.

The grantee will implement activities both directly and, where applicable, through sub-grantees; the grantee will, however, retain overall financial and programmatic management under the oversight of HHS/CDC and the strategic direction of the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator. The grantee must show measurable progressive reinforcement of the capacity of health facilities to respond to the national HIV epidemic as well as progress towards the sustainability of activities.

Applicants should describe activities in detail that reflect the policies and goals outlined in the *Five-Year Strategy* for the President's Emergency Plan and the Partnership Framework for South Sudan. The grantee will produce an annual operational plan, which the U.S. Government Emergency Plan team on the ground in South Sudan will review as

part of the annual Emergency Plan review-and-approval process managed by the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator.

The grantee may work on some of the activities listed below in the first year and in subsequent years, and then progressively add others from the list to achieve all of the Emergency Plan performance goals as cited in the previous section. HHS/CDC, under the guidance of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, will approve funds for activities on an annual basis, based on availability of funding and USG priorities, and based on documented performance toward achieving Emergency Plan goals, as part of the annual Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief Country Operational Plan review-and-approval process.

Grantee activities for this program are as follows:

Activity #1: Surveillance

Task 1.1: Facilitate the MOH HIV surveillance program to develop a surveillance strategic plan.

Task 1.2: Provide technical assistance and support to the MOH to enable it to conduct at least four formative assessments and bio-behavioral surveys (each assessment and survey includes at least two groups) among female sex workers and long distance truck drivers and other groups (may include but not limited to demobilized soldiers, police, men who have sex with men, cattle herders, oil workers or miners) in at least three locations (each group in two locations). Locations will include Juba town, Yambio town, and one other town in South Sudan.

Task 1.3: Advise and assist the MOH to enable it to design and execute a national HIV case reporting system, and pilot it in Western Equatoria and Central Equatoria in the first year. Expand in subsequent years.

Task 1.4: Advise and assist the MOH to conduct a country-wide incidence misclassification survey to determine the false recent rate of new HIV infections in the second year.

Task 1.5: Advise and assist the MOH to execute additional surveillance activities and systems, which may include but are not limited to: incidence surveillance, population size estimation, TB/HIV surveillance, and/or ANC surveillance.

Task 1.6: Advise and assist the MOH and the South Sudan Center for Census, Statistics and Evaluation staff to conduct HIV surveillance, data analysis, interpretation, and use to strengthen the government strategic information capacity.

Task 1.7: Advise and assist the MOH and the South Sudan Center for Census, Statistics and Evaluation to analyze and disseminate data to support status updates, stakeholder dialogue, and health services planning with all stakeholders at local, regional and national level in support of all program areas, including, HIV, STIs, tuberculosis, and malaria, among others.

Task 1.8: Advise and assist with data interpretation and use for projections and modeling, policy formulation, program planning and improvement, and resource allocation.

Task 1.9: Advise and assist the MOH to enable it to conduct a country-wide surveillance-centric ANC/PMTCT data quality assessment.

Activity #2: Monitoring and Evaluation

Task 2.1: Conduct a country-wide program-centric PMTCT data quality assessment with the MOH.

Task 2.2: Conduct a country-wide data quality assessment for HTC or other programs with the MOH.

Task 2.3: Provide technical assistance to the MOH in developing and/or updating the M&E strategic plan.

Task 2.4: Conduct with the MOH and/or South Sudan Center for Census, Statistics, and Evaluation an evaluation of PEPFAR sexual prevention and PMTCT programs while strengthening MOH and South Sudan Center for Census, Statistics, and Evaluation capacity to conduct evaluations.

Task 2.5: Strengthen capacity of PEPFAR partners, including MOH, to analyze, interpret, and use data for quality improvement, policy formulation, program planning and improvement, and resource allocation.

Task 2.6: Support the MOH to conduct M&E supervision and capacity strengthening for District Health Information System (DHIS) and other program monitoring systems.

Task 2.7: Support the MOH to develop and implement an HIV tracking system to track the health of patients within a health facility.

Activity #3: Capacity Strengthening

Task 3.1: Provide long-term hands-on mentoring of the MOH and South Sudan Center for Census, Statistics and Evaluation staff to conduct HIV surveillance, monitoring and evaluation, support health information systems, and conduct data analysis and interpretation, and use data to strengthen government strategic information capacity.

Task 3.2: Support the MOH to analyze, interpret, use, and disseminate data for status updates, projections and modeling, policy formulation, stakeholder dialogue, health service planning and improvement, and resource allocation with all stakeholders at local,

regional, and national levels and in support of all program areas including, HIV, STIs, tuberculosis, and malaria, among others.

Task 3.3: Support the MOH in training, policy, and guidance development, in all areas of HIV including but not limited to MOH health officials' attendance at trainings, workshops, or conferences, which may be sponsored by the US government or other organizations; support stakeholder's meetings; and support to publish policy, guidance or other documents for dissemination and use.

Task 3.4: Support the South Sudan Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) through provision of technical assistance to strengthen the CCM, develop Global Fund proposals, and monitor activities funded under the Global Fund.

Task 3.5: Support the development of regulatory boards/councils for nursing, midwifery, laboratory, and physicians to develop standards and regulations for the sector.

In a cooperative agreement, CDC staff is substantially involved in the program activities, above and beyond routine grant monitoring.

CDC Activities:

The selected applicant of this funding competition must comply with all HHS/CDC management requirements for meeting participation and progress and financial reporting for this cooperative agreement (See HHS/CDC Activities and Reporting sections below for details), and comply with all policy directives established by the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator.

In a cooperative agreement, CDC staff is substantially involved in the program activities, above and beyond routine grant monitoring. CDC activities for this program are as follows:

1. Organize an orientation meeting with the grantee for a briefing on applicable U.S. Government, HHS, and Emergency Plan expectations, regulations and key management requirements, as well as report formats and contents. The

orientation could include meetings with staff from HHS agencies and the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC).

2. Review and make recommendations as necessary to the process used by the grantee to select key personnel and/or post-award subcontractors and/or subgrantees to be involved in the activities performed under this agreement, as part of the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief Country Operational Plan review and approval process, managed by the OGAC.
3. Review and make recommendations to the grantee's annual work plan and detailed budget, as part of the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief Country Operational Plan review-and-approval process, managed by the OGAC.
4. Review and make recommendations to the grantee's monitoring-and-evaluation plan, including for conduct of routine data quality assurance processes and periodic data quality assessments and for compliance with strategic information guidance established by the OGAC.
5. Meet on a monthly basis with the grantee to assess monthly expenditures in relation to approved work plan and modify plans, as necessary.
6. Meet on a quarterly basis with the grantee to assess quarterly technical and financial progress reports and modify plans as necessary.
7. Meet on an annual basis with the grantee to review annual progress report for each U.S. Government Fiscal Year, and to review annual work plans and budgets for the subsequent year, as part of the PEPFAR review and approval process for the country operational plans (COPs), managed by the OGAC.
8. Provide technical assistance, as mutually agreed upon, and revise annually during validation of the first and subsequent annual work plans. This could include expert technical assistance and targeted training activities in specialized areas, such as strategic information, project management, and confidential counseling and testing.
9. Provide in-country administrative support to help grantee meet U.S. Government financial and reporting requirements approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under 0920-0428 (Public Health Service Form 5161).

10. Collaborate with the grantee on designing and implementing the activities listed above, including, but not limited to: the provision of technical assistance to develop program activities, data management and analysis, quality assurance, the presentation and possibly publication of program results and findings, and the management and tracking of finances.
11. Provide consultation and scientific and technical assistance based on appropriate, HHS/CDC and OGAC documents to promote the use of best practices known at the time.
12. Assist and mentor the grantee in developing and implementing quality-assurance criteria and procedures.
13. Facilitate in-country planning and review meetings for technical assistance activities.
14. Provide technical oversight for all activities under this award.
15. Provide ethical reviews, as necessary, for evaluation activities, including from HHS/CDC headquarters.
16. Supply the grantee with protocols for related evaluations.
17. Collaborate on the design of protocols, trainings, or service delivery models.
18. Supply the grantee with protocols for related activities.
19. Participate in the advanced review of all data analysis activities and protocols to comply with Institutional Review Board (IRB) regulations, CDC/HHS Human Subject Determinations (HSD); as well as Ministry of Health guidelines.
20. Approve research protocols and analytical approaches, or approve the initiation of a subsequent module in a phased activity.
21. Collaborate with the grantee to develop training and service delivery models under the guidance of the Government of South Sudan.
22. Train project staff in participating organizations.
23. Participate in the presentation of results from data collection activities, including co-authorship of papers, and own all data.
24. Assist in the evaluation of potential contractors.
25. Work with the grantee to facilitate the coordination of services with other CDC-funded implementers, PEPFAR and development partners, and Federal, State, and

Local government entities operating in the geographic and service-delivery areas identified in this award as necessary to ensure maximum programmatic efficiencies. This will include—but will not be limited to: assisting the awardee in selecting facility- and community-based sites; directing the awardee’s focus, support, and activities to specific geographic areas and/or facilities with identified programmatic and/or strategic need; facilitating the re-organization and/or rationalization of service-provision activities on a programmatic and/or geographic basis to better facilitate Government of South Sudan coordination and ownership of PEPFAR-funded activities.

26. Provide relevant, appropriate guidance and technical assistance to the grantee in developing statements of work (SoWs), subcontracts, and terms of reference for any trainings or interventions planned in response to audits or assessment findings.
27. Assist the grantee in accessing pooled procurement mechanisms for specific commodities, and coordinate with the grantee to structure procurements in a way that supports linkages with national and central procurement.
28. Provide technical assistance to the awardee in preparing strategies related to the future expansion of service delivery activities (within the scope of this award) prior to their approval to ensure adequate collaboration with existing service-delivery organizations and avoid duplication of services.
29. Provide technical assistance to the awardee in preparing and submitting routine requirements to CDC Headquarters (HQ) by reviewing, critiquing, and providing concurrence with all reports and other required documentation prior to submission.
30. Provide a designated in-country CDC point-of-contact (Activity Manager) responsible for liaising with the awardee on a regular basis on matters related to programmatic, financial, and administrative performance. The Activity Manager will regularly review the awardee’s financial performance, provide oversight and approval for programmatic activities, and make recommendations to the CDC South Sudan office on the continuation of the award, its supported activities, and associated funding.

31. Adjust program activities as needed in order to avoid overlap and duplication of services in areas where other USG implementing partners are working in order to maximize and efficiently utilize resources, to complement the national HIV/AIDS program, and to continue to strengthen the Government of South Sudan national health system's leadership and management of HIV/AIDS services.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

Type of Award: Cooperative Agreement.

Award Mechanism: U2G – Global HIV/AIDS Non-Research Cooperative Agreements

Fiscal Year Funds: 2012

Approximate Current Fiscal Year Funding: \$2,300,000

Approximate Total Project Period Funding: \$17,300,000 (This amount is an estimate, and is subject to availability of funds and includes direct costs for international organizations or direct and indirect costs for domestic grantees for all years.)

Approximate Number of Awards: 1 to 2

Approximate Average Award: \$1,150,000 (This amount is for the first 12 month budget period, and includes direct costs for international organizations or direct and indirect costs for domestic grantees.)

Floor of Individual Award Range: None

Budget Year 2 Floor amount: None

Budget Year 3 Floor amount: None

Budget Year 4 Floor amount: None

Budget Year 5 Floor amount: N/A

Ceiling of Individual Award Range: \$2,300,000 (This ceiling is for the first 12 month budget period and includes direct costs for international organizations or direct and indirect costs for domestic grantees.)

Budget Year 2 Ceiling amount: \$5,000,000

Budget Year 3 Ceiling amount: \$5,000,000

Budget Year 4 Ceiling amount: \$5,000,000

Budget Year 5 Ceiling amount: N/A

Anticipated Award Date: September 30, 2012

Budget Period Length: Twelve months

Project Period Length: Four years

Throughout the project period, CDC's commitment to continuation of awards will be conditioned on the availability of funds, evidence of satisfactory progress by the recipient (as documented in required reports), and the determination that continued funding is in the best interest of the Federal government. Ceiling amounts in budget years 02-05 include additional funds for anticipated scale-up of existing activities.

Note: Applicants should only apply for the first budget period funding taking into consideration the first budget period floor and the first budget period ceiling.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants that can apply for this funding opportunity are listed below:

- Nonprofit with 501C3 IRS status (other than institution of higher education)
- Nonprofit without 501C3 IRS status (other than institution of higher education)
- For-profit organizations (other than small business)
- Small, minority, and women-owned businesses
- Universities
- Colleges
- Research institutions
- Hospitals
- Community-based organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Federally recognized or state-recognized American Indian/Alaska Native tribal governments
- American Indian/Alaska native tribally designated organizations
- Alaska Native health corporations

- Urban Indian health organizations
- Tribal epidemiology centers
- State and local governments or their Bona Fide Agents (this includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau)
- Political subdivisions of States (in consultation with States)
- Non-domestic (non-U.S.) entity
- Other (specify)

A Bona Fide Agent is an agency/organization identified by the state as eligible to submit an application under the state eligibility in lieu of a state application. If applying as a bona fide agent of a state or local government, a legal, binding agreement from the state or local government as documentation of the status is required. Attach with “Other Attachment Forms” when submitting via www.grants.gov.

PEPFAR Local Partner definition:

A “local partner” may be an individual or sole proprietorship, an entity, or a joint venture or other arrangement. However, to be considered a local partner in a given country served by PEPFAR, the partner must meet the criteria under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) below within that country:

(1) an individual must be a citizen or lawfully admitted permanent resident of and have his/her principal place of business in the country served by the PEPFAR program with which the individual is or may become involved, and a sole proprietorship must be owned by such an individual; or

(2) an entity (e.g., a corporation or partnership): (a) must be incorporated or legally organized under the laws of, and have its principal place of business in, the country served by the PEPFAR program with which the entity is or may become involved; (b) must be at least 51% for FY 2009-10; 66% for FY 2011-12; and 75% for

FY 2013 beneficially owned by individuals who are citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents of that same country, per sub-paragraph (2)(a), or by other corporations, partnerships or other arrangements that are local partners under this paragraph or paragraph (3); (c) at least 51% for FY 2009-10; 66% for FY 2011-12; and 75% for FY 2013 of the entity's staff (senior, mid-level, support) must be citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents of that same country, per sub-paragraph (2)(a), and at least 51% for FY 2009-10; 66% for FY 2011-12; and 75% for FY 2013 of the entity's senior staff (i.e., managerial and professional personnel) must be citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents of such country; and (d) where an entity has a Board of Directors, at least 51% of the members of the Board must also be citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents of such country; or

(3) a joint venture, unincorporated association, consortium, or other arrangement in which at least 51% for FY 2009-10; 66% for FY 2011-12; and 75% for FY 2013 of the funding under the PEPFAR award is or will be provided to members who are local partners under the criteria in paragraphs (1) or (2) above, and a local partner is designated as the managing member of the organization.

Host government ministries (e.g., Ministry of Health), sub-units of government ministries, and parastatal organizations in the country served by the PEPFAR program are considered local partners. A parastatal organization is defined as a fully or partially government-owned or government-funded organization. Such enterprises may function through a board of directors, similar to private corporations. However, ultimate control over the board may rest with the government.

Note: To be considered a local partner, the applicant must submit supporting documentation demonstrating their organization meets one of the three criteria listed above.

Required Registrations

Registering your organization through www.Grants.gov, the official agency-wide E-grant website, is the first step in submitting an application online. Registration information is located on the “Get Registered” screen of www.Grants.gov. Please visit www.Grants.gov at least 30 days prior to submitting your application to familiarize yourself with the registration and submission processes. The “one-time” registration process will take three to five days to complete. However, the Grants.gov registration process also requires that you register your organization with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) and DUN and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) which will require up to at least 4 weeks to complete registration in its entirety. The CCR registration can require an additional two weeks to complete. You are required to maintain a current registration in CCR. CCR registration must be renewed annually.

Central Contractor Registration and Universal Identifier Requirements

Foreign entities only: Prior to registering for CCR, please follow the Special Instructions for acquiring a Commercial and Governmental Entity (NCAGE) Code:

http://www.dlis.dla.mil/Forms/Form_AC135.asp.

All applicant organizations **must obtain** a DUN and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number as the Universal Identifier when applying for Federal grants or cooperative agreements. The DUNS number is a nine-digit number assigned by Dun and Bradstreet Information Services. An AOR should be consulted to determine the appropriate number. If the organization does not have a DUNS number, an AOR should complete the **US D&B D-U-N-S Number Request Form** or contact Dun and Bradstreet by telephone directly at 1-866-705-5711 (toll-free) to obtain one. A DUNS number will be provided immediately by telephone at no charge. Note this is an organizational number. Individual Program Directors/Principal Investigators do not need to register for a DUNS number.

Additionally, all applicant organizations must register in the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) and maintain the registration with current information at all times during which it has an application under consideration for funding by CDC and, if an award is made, until a final financial report is submitted or the final payment is received, whichever is

later. CCR is the primary registrant database for the Federal government and is the repository into which an entity must provide information required for the conduct of business as a recipient. Additional information about registration procedures may be found at the CCR internet site at www.ccr.gov.

If an award is granted, the grantee organization must notify potential sub-recipients that no organization may receive a subaward under the grant unless the organization has provided its DUNS number to the grantee organization.

Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost sharing or matching funds are not required for this program.

Maintenance of Effort

Maintenance of Effort is not required for this program.

Other

If a funding amount greater than the ceiling of the award range is requested, the application will be considered non-responsive and will not be entered into the review process. The applicant will be notified that the application did not meet the eligibility requirements.

Special Requirements:

- Late submissions will be considered non-responsive. See section “V.3. Submission Dates and Times” for more information on deadlines.
- If the total amount of appendices includes more than 80 pages, the application will not be considered for review. For this purpose, all appendices must have page numbers and must be clearly identified in the Table of Contents.

Note: Title 2 of the United States Code Section 1611 states that an organization described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to receive Federal funds constituting a grant, loan, or an award.

Funding under this award will be subject to preferences based on programmatic needs and in-country strategic priorities. Applicants meeting the criteria specified in “Section V. Application Review Information” will receive additional points beyond the possible total of 100.

IV. Application and Submission Information

Submission Dates and Times

This announcement is the definitive guide on LOI and application content, submission, and deadline. It supersedes information provided in the application instructions. If the application submission does not meet the deadline published herein, it will not be eligible for review and the applicant will be notified the application did not meet the submission requirements.

Application Deadline Date: April 02, 2012 on Grants.gov, 11:59pm Eastern Standard Time.

Applicants must download the SF424 application package associated with this funding opportunity from www.Grants.gov . If access to the Internet is not available or if the applicant encounters difficulty in accessing the forms on-line, contact the HHS/CDC Procurement and Grant Office Technical Information Management Section (PGO TIMS) staff at (770) 488-2700 email:pgotim@cdc.gov Monday-Friday 7:00am – 4:30pm U.S. Eastern Standard Time for further instruction. CDC Telecommunications for the hearing impaired or disabled is available at: TTY 1-888-232-6348.

If the applicant encounters technical difficulties with Grants.gov, the applicant should contact Grants.gov Customer Service. The Grants.gov Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with the exception of all Federal Holidays. The Contact Center provides customer service to the applicant community. The extended hours will provide applicants support around the clock, ensuring the best possible customer service

is received any time it's needed. You can reach the Grants.gov Support Center at 1-800-518-4726 or by email at support@grants.gov. Submissions sent by e-mail, fax, CD's or thumb drives of applications will not be accepted.

Content and Form of Application Submission

All applicants are required to sign and submit CDC Assurances and Certifications that can be found on the CDC Web site at the following Internet address:

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/grants/foamain.shtm>

Print, scan and upload as an additional attachment into the application package.

Letter of Intent (LOI):

A letter of intent is not applicable to this funding opportunity announcement.

A Project Abstract must be completed in the Grants.gov application forms. The Project Abstract must contain a summary of the proposed activity suitable for dissemination to the public. It should be a self-contained description of the project and should contain a statement of objectives and methods to be employed. It should be informative to other persons working in the same or related fields and insofar as possible understandable to a technically literate lay reader. This abstract must not include any proprietary/confidential information.

A Project Narrative must be submitted with the application forms. The project narrative must be uploaded in a PDF file format when submitting via Grants.gov. The narrative must be submitted in the following format:

- Maximum number of pages: 25 (If your narrative exceeds the page limit, only the first pages which are within the page limit will be reviewed.);

- Font size: 12 point, unreduced, Times New Roman;
- Double spaced;
- Page margin size: One inch;
- Number all narrative pages; not to exceed the maximum number of pages.

Note: The applicant should take into consideration the Criteria listed in “Section V. Application Review Information” when composing the project narrative.

The narrative should address activities to be conducted over the entire project period and must include the following items in the order listed:

- *Project Context and Background (Understanding and Need):* Describe the background and justify the need for the proposed project. Describe the current infrastructure system; targeted geographical area(s), if applicable; and identified gaps or shortcomings of the current health systems and AIDS control projects;
- *Project Strategy - Description and Methodologies:* Present a detailed operational plan for initiating and conducting the project. Clearly describe the applicant’s technical approach/methods for implementing the proposed project. Describe the existence of, or plans to establish partnerships necessary to implement the project. Describe linkages, if appropriate, with programs funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development;
- *Project Goals and Objectives:* Include the goals of the project and its SMART objectives (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound). These need to be consistent with the expected targets of the Country/Regional Operational Plan and for this Cooperative Agreement program as provided in the “Purpose” Section at the beginning of this Announcement;
- *Work Plan and Description of Project Components and Activities:* Be sure to address each of the specific tasks listed in the activities section of this announcement. Clearly identify specific assigned responsibilities for all key professional personnel;

- *Project Outputs:* List the products that will result from the activities to be implemented in this project and that are relevant to the objectives specified in the previous section (e.g., conduct data quality assessment once a year);
- *Project Outcomes:* Include the expected effects of project activities in the target populations and/or organizations (e.g., increased adherence to ART) that are relevant to the project goals and objectives. This will represent the project's effectiveness;
- *Performance Indicators:* Include measures that will show progress in the achievement of project goals and objectives (e.g., percent of health care workers who graduated from a pre-service training at the end of the reporting period)
- *Timeline* (e.g., GANTT Chart); and
- *Management of Project Funds and Reporting.* Reporting should also address quarterly reports and PEPFAR Semi-Annual (SAPR) and Annual (APR) progress reports.

Project Budget Justification:

With staffing breakdown and justification, provide a line item budget and a narrative with justification for all requested costs *for the first budget period*. Be sure to include, if any, in-kind support or other contributions provided by the national government and its donors as part of the total project, but for which the applicant is not requesting funding.

Budgets must be consistent with the purpose, objectives of the Emergency Plan and the program activities listed in this announcement and must include the following: line item breakdown and justification for all personnel, i.e., name, position title, annual salary, percentage of time and effort, and amount requested.

The project budget justification must be included as a separate attachment of the application, not to be counted in the narrative page limit.

The recommended guidance for completing a detailed budget justification can be

found on the HHS/CDC Web site, at the following Internet address:

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/budgetguide.htm>.

For each contract, list the following: (1) name of proposed contractor; (2) breakdown and justification for estimated costs; (3) description and scope of activities the contractor will perform; (4) period of performance; (5) method of contractor selection (e.g., competitive solicitation); and (6) methods of accountability. Applicants should, to the greatest extent possible, employ transparent and open competitive processes to choose contractors;

Additional information may be included in the application appendices. The appendices will not be counted toward the narrative page limit. **The total amount of appendices must not exceed 80 pages and can only contain information related to the following:**

- *Curricula vitae* of current key staff who will work on the activity – Country Director and Project Manager;
- *Job descriptions* of proposed key positions to be created for the activity – Country Director, Project Manager, Capacity Strengthening Manager;
- *Applicant’s Corporate Capability Statement*;
- *Letters of Support* (5 letters maximum) – Ministry of Health and/or other partners outside South Sudan describing prior work experience;
- *Evidence of Legal Organizational Structure*;
- *If applying as a Local Indigenous Partner*, provide documentation to self-certify the applicant meets the PEPFAR local partner definition listed in “Special Requirements,” Section III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION section of the FOA; and
- *Work plan/GANTT and Organizational Chart*.

Additional information submitted via Grants.gov should be uploaded in a PDF file format, and should be named accordingly. i.e.: Letters of support should be named “letters of support”

Additional requirements for additional documentation with the application are listed in Section VII. Award Administration Information, subsection entitled “Administrative and National Policy Requirements.”

Funding Restrictions

Restrictions, which must be taken into account while writing the budget, are as follows:

- Recipients may not use funds for research.
- Recipients may not use funds for clinical care.
- All plans for data collection from persons or personal records and for laboratory specimen collection and testing that are expected to result in public reports will require protocols for technical review and review of institutional human subjects protection considerations by CDC. Funds for implementing these activities will be restricted until all necessary institutional protocol approvals have been obtained. Funds for preparatory activities (e.g., protocol development, training, equipment, reagents, and site preparation) may be provided prior to protocol approval. To facilitate the early availability of funding, the budget and narrative should clarify which activities are preparatory.
- Needle Exchange – No funds appropriated under this Act shall be used to carry out any program of distributing sterile needles or syringes for the hypodermic injection of any illegal drug.
- Recipients may only expend funds for reasonable program purposes, including personnel, travel, supplies, and services, such as contractual.
- Awardees may not generally use HHS/CDC/ATSDR funding for the purchase of furniture or equipment. Any such proposed spending must be identified in the budget.
- The direct and primary recipient in a cooperative agreement program must perform a substantial role in carrying out project objectives and not merely serve as a conduit for an award to another party or provider who is ineligible.
- Reimbursement of pre-award costs is not allowed.

- The costs that are generally allowable in grants to domestic organizations are allowable to foreign institutions and international organizations, with the following exception: With the exception of the American University, Beirut and the World Health Organization, Indirect Costs will not be paid (either directly or through sub-award) to organizations located outside the territorial limits of the United States or to international organizations regardless of their location.
- The applicant may contract with other organizations under this program; however the applicant must perform a substantial portion of the activities (including program management and operations, and delivery of prevention services for which funds are required.)
- All requests for funds contained in the budget, shall be stated in U.S. dollars. Once an award is made, CDC will not compensate foreign grantees for currency exchange fluctuations through the issuance of supplemental awards.
- Foreign grantees are subject to audit requirements specified in 45 CFR 74.26(d). A non-Federal audit is required, if during the grantees fiscal year, the grantee expended a total of \$500,000.00 or more under one or more HHS awards (as a direct grantee and/or as a sub-grantee). The grantee either may have (1) A financial related audit (as defined in the Government Auditing Standards, GPO stock #020-000-00-265-4) of a particular award in accordance with Government Auditing Standards, in those case where the grantee receives awards under only one HHS program; or, if awards are received under multiple HHS programs, a financial related audit of all HHS awards in accordance with Government Auditing Standards; or (2) An audit that meets the requirements contained in OMB Circular A-133.
- A fiscal Grantee Capability Assessment may be required, prior to or post award, in order to review the applicant's business management and fiscal capabilities regarding the handling of U.S. Federal funds.
- ADS funding restrictions which require submission of protocols will be submitted within six months of notification of such requirement, but no later than the end of the first budget year. Requests for exceptions to these deadlines will need to be submitted in writing to the Grants Management Officer.

All protocol approvals **should be obtained** no later than the end of the second budget period after the award or Continuation has been made, provided that the Grantee submits their protocol no later than the deadline.

The 8% Rule

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) seeks to promote sustainability for programs through the development, use, and strengthening of local partnerships. The diversification of partners also ensures additional robust capacity at the local and national levels.

To achieve this goal, the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) establishes an annual funding guideline for grants and cooperative agreement planning. Within each annual PEPFAR country budget, OGAC establishes a limit for the total amount of U.S. Government funding for HIV/AIDS activities provided to a single partner organization under all grant and cooperative agreements for that country. **For U.S. Government fiscal year (FY) 2012, the limit is no more than 8 percent of the country's FY 2012 PEPFAR program funding (excluding U.S. Government management and staffing costs), or \$2 million, whichever is greater.** The total amount of funding to a partner organization includes any PEPFAR funding provided to the partner, whether directly as prime partner or indirectly as sub-grantee. In addition, subject to the exclusion for umbrella awards and drug/commodity costs discussed below, all funds provided to a prime partner, even if passed through to sub-partners, are applicable to the limit. PEPFAR funds provided to an organization under contracts are not applied to the 8 percent/\$2 million single partner ceiling. Single-partner funding limits will be determined by PEPFAR after the submission of the COP(s). Exclusions from the 8 percent/\$2 million single-partner ceiling are made for (a) umbrella awards, (b) commodity/drug costs, and (c) Government Ministries and parastatal organizations. A parastatal organization is defined as a fully or partially state-owned corporation or government agency. For umbrella awards, grants officers will determine whether an award is an umbrella for purposes of exception from the cap on an award-by-award basis. Grants or cooperative agreements in which the primary objective is for the organization

to make sub-awards and at least 75 percent of the grant is used for sub-awards, with the remainder of the grant used for administrative expenses and technical assistance to sub-grantees, will be considered umbrella awards and, therefore, exempted from the cap. Agreements that merely include sub-grants as an activity in implementation of the award but do not meet these criteria will not be considered umbrella awards, and the full amount of the award will count against the cap. All commodity/drug costs will be excluded from partners' funding for the purpose of the cap. The remaining portion of awards, including all overhead/management costs, will be counted against the cap.

Applicants should be aware that evaluation of proposals will include an assessment of grant/cooperative agreement award amounts applicable to the applicant by U.S. Government fiscal year in the relevant country. An applicant whose grants or cooperative agreements have already met or exceeded the maximum, annual single-partner limit may submit an application in response to this RFA/APS/FOA. However, applicants whose total PEPFAR funding for this country in a U.S. Government fiscal year exceeds the 8 percent/\$2 million single partner ceiling at the time of award decision will be ineligible to receive an award under this RFA/APS/FOA unless the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator approves an exception to the cap. **Applicants must provide in their proposals the dollar value by U.S. Government fiscal year of current grants and cooperative agreements (including sub-grants and sub-agreements) financed by the Emergency Plan, which are for programs in the country(ies) covered by this RFA/APS/FOA.** For example, the proposal should state that the applicant has \$_____ in FY 2012 grants and cooperative agreements (for as many fiscal years as applicable) in South Sudan. For additional information concerning this RFA/APS/FOA, please contact the Grants Officer for this RFA/APS/FOA.

Prostitution and Related Activities

The U.S. Government is opposed to prostitution and related activities, which are inherently harmful and dehumanizing, and contribute to the phenomenon of trafficking in persons.

Any entity that receives, directly or indirectly, U.S. Government funds in connection with this document (“recipient”) cannot use such U.S. Government funds to promote or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution or sex trafficking. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed to preclude the provision to individuals of palliative care, treatment, or post-exposure pharmaceutical prophylaxis, and necessary pharmaceuticals and commodities, including test kits, condoms, and, when proven effective, microbicides. A recipient that is otherwise eligible to receive funds in connection with this document to prevent, treat, or monitor HIV/AIDS shall not be required to endorse or utilize a multisectoral approach to combating HIV/AIDS, or to endorse, utilize, or participate in a prevention method or treatment program to which the recipient has a religious or moral objection. Any information provided by recipients about the use of condoms as part of projects or activities that are funded in connection with this document shall be medically accurate and shall include the public health benefits and failure rates of such use.

In addition, any recipient must have a policy explicitly opposing prostitution and sex trafficking. The preceding sentence shall not apply to any “exempt organizations” (defined as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Health Organization and its six Regional Offices, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative or to any United Nations agency).

The following definition applies for purposes of this clause:

- Sex trafficking means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act. 22 U.S.C. § 7102(9).

All recipients must insert provisions implementing the applicable parts of this section, “Prostitution and Related Activities,” in all subagreements under this award. These provisions must be express terms and conditions of the subagreement, must acknowledge that compliance with this section, “Prostitution and Related Activities,” is a prerequisite to receipt and expenditure of U.S. government funds in connection with this document,

and must acknowledge that any violation of the provisions shall be grounds for unilateral termination of the agreement prior to the end of its term. Recipients must agree that HHS may, at any reasonable time, inspect the documents and materials maintained or prepared by the recipient in the usual course of its operations that relate to the organization's compliance with this section, "Prostitution and Related Activities."

All prime recipients that receive U.S. Government funds ("prime recipients") in connection with this document must certify compliance prior to actual receipt of such funds in a written statement that makes reference to this document (e.g., "[Prime recipient's name] certifies compliance with the section, 'Prostitution and Related Activities.'" addressed to the agency's grants officer. Such certifications by prime recipients are prerequisites to the payment of any U.S. Government funds in connection with this document.

Recipients' compliance with this section, "Prostitution and Related Activities," is an express term and condition of receiving U.S. Government funds in connection with this document, and any violation of it shall be grounds for unilateral termination by HHS of the agreement with HHS in connection with this document prior to the end of its term. The recipient shall refund to HHS the entire amount furnished in connection with this document in the event HHS determines the recipient has not complied with this section, "Prostitution and Related Activities."

Any enforcement of this clause is subject to Alliance for Open Society International v. USAID, 05 Civ. 8209 (S.D.N.Y., orders filed on June 29, 2006 and August 8, 2008) (orders gaining preliminary injunction) for the term of the Orders.

The List of the members of GHC and InterAction is found at:

http://www.usaid.gov/business/business_opportunities/cib/pdf/GlobalHealthMemberlist.pdf

Additional Submission Requirements

Electronic Submission

Submit the application electronically by using the forms and instructions posted for this funding opportunity on www.Grants.gov. If access to the Internet is not available or if the applicant encounters difficulty in accessing the forms on-line, contact the HHS/CDC, Procurement and Grant Office, Technical Information Management Section (PGO TIMS) staff at (770) 488-2700 Email: pgotim@cdc.gov Monday-Friday 7:30am -4:30pm for further instruction.

Note: Application submission is not concluded until successful completion of the validation process.

After submission of your application package, applicants will receive a “submission receipt” email generated by Grants.gov. Grants.gov will then generate a second e-mail message to applicants which will either validate or reject their submitted application package. This validation process may take as long as two (2) business days. Applicants are strongly encouraged check the status of their application to ensure submission of their application package is complete and no submission errors exists. To guarantee that you comply with the application deadline published in the Funding Opportunity Announcement, applicants are also strongly encouraged to allocate additional days prior to the published deadline to file their application. Non-validated applications will not be accepted after the published application deadline date.

In the event that you do not receive a “validation” email within two (2) business days of application submission, please contact www.Grants.gov . Refer to the email message generated at the time of application submission for instructions on how to track your application or the Application User Guide, Version 3.0 page 57.

Applications must be submitted electronically at www.Grants.gov. Electronic applications will be considered as having met the deadline if the application has been

successfully made available to CDC for processing from Grants.gov on the deadline date. The application package can be downloaded from www.Grants.gov. Applicants can complete the application package off-line, and then upload and submit the application via the Grants.gov Web site. The applicant must submit all application attachments using a PDF file format when submitting via Grants.gov. Directions for creating PDF files can be found on the Grants.gov Web site. Use of file formats other than PDF may result in the file being unreadable by staff.

Applications submitted through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>), are electronically time/date stamped and assigned a tracking number. The AOR will receive an e-mail notice of receipt when Grants.gov receives the application. The tracking number serves to document submission and initiate the electronic validation process before the application is made available to CDC for processing.

If the applicant encounters technical difficulties with Grants.gov, the applicant should contact Grants.gov Customer Service. The Grants.gov Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with the exception of all Federal Holidays. The Contact Center provides customer service to the applicant community. The extended hours will provide applicants support around the clock, ensuring the best possible customer service is received any time it's needed. You can reach the Grants.gov Support Center at 1-800-518-4726 or by email at support@grants.gov. Submissions sent by e-mail, fax, CD's or thumb drives of applications will not be accepted.

Organizations that encounter technical difficulties in using www.Grants.gov to submit their application must attempt to overcome those difficulties by contacting the Grants.gov Support Center (1-800-518-4726, support@grants.gov). After consulting with the Grants.gov Support Center, if the technical difficulties remain unresolved and electronic submission is not possible to meet the established deadline, organizations may submit a request prior to the application deadline by email to the GMO/GMS [See Section VII "Agency Contacts"], for permission to submit a paper application. An organization's request for permission must: (a) include the Grants.gov case number

assigned to the inquiry, (b) describe the difficulties that prevented electronic submission and the efforts taken with the Grants.gov Support Center (c) be submitted to the GMO/GMS at least 3 calendar days prior to the application deadline. Paper applications submitted without prior approval will not be considered.

If a paper application is authorized, the applicant will receive instructions from PGO TIMS to submit the original and two hard copies of the application by mail or express delivery service.

If a paper application is authorized, the applicant will receive instructions from PGO TIMS to submit the original and two hard copies of the application by mail or express delivery service.

Intergovernmental Review

Executive Order 12372 does not apply to this program.

V. Application Review Information

Eligible applicants are required to provide measures of effectiveness that will demonstrate the accomplishment of the various identified objectives of the funding opportunity announcement GH12-1256. Measures of effectiveness must relate to the performance goals stated in the “Purpose” section of this announcement. Measures of effectiveness must be objective, quantitative and measure the intended outcome of the proposed program. The measures of effectiveness must be included in the application and will be an element of the evaluation of the submitted application.

Criteria

Eligible applications will be evaluated against the following criteria:

Ability to Carry Out the Proposal (13 points):

Does the applicant demonstrate the institutional capacity (both management and technical) to achieve the goals of the project with documented good governance practices? (4 points) Does the applicant have the experience working in a relatively insecure environment with few resources and little infrastructure like in South Sudan? Does the applicant have the capacity to recruit and keep qualified staff to work in South Sudan? (6 points) To what extent does the applicant provide letters of support? (3 points)

Technical and Programmatic Approach (31 points):

Does the application include an overall design strategy, including measurable time lines, clear monitoring and evaluation procedures, and specific activities for meeting the proposed objectives? Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of the activities and outcomes in the funding opportunity announcement? Does the applicant demonstrate their capacity, technical approach and methods to meet the proposed objectives? (14 points) Does the applicant display knowledge of the strategy, principles and goals of the President's Emergency Plan, and are the proposed activities consistent with and pertinent to that strategy and those principles and goals? (2 points) Does the applicant describe activities that are evidence based, realistic, achievable, measurable and culturally appropriate to achieve the goals of the President's Emergency Plan? (5 points) Does the application include reasonable estimates of outcome targets? (For example, the numbers of sites to be supported, number of clients the program will reach.) Does the applicant indicate how quality will be ensured in their work? To what extent does the applicant propose to work with other organizations? (5 points) Does the applicant provide a strategy for working with the Ministry of Health to support Government of South Sudan ownership of all activities and systems? (5 points) The reviewers will assess the feasibility of the applicant's plan to meet the target goals, whether the proposed use of funds is efficient, and the extent to which the specific methods described are sensitive to the local culture.

Capacity Building (18 points):

Does the applicant have a proven track record of strengthening the capacity of indigenous organizations and individuals, including Ministries of Health? Does the applicant have relevant experience using participatory methods and approaches in project planning and implementation? Does the applicant describe an appropriate and measurable plan to progressively strengthen the capacity of local organizations and individuals to carry out the work related to this announcement? (12 points) If not a local indigenous organization, does the applicant articulate a clear exit strategy which will maximize the legacy of this project in the intervention communities? Does the capacity strengthening plan clearly describe how it will contribute to a) improved data and data use to support the President's Emergency Plan, and b) (if not a local indigenous organization) an evolving role of the prime beneficiary with transfer of critical technical and management competence to local organizations/sites in support of a decentralized response? (6 points)

Monitoring and Evaluation (13 points):

Does the applicant demonstrate the experience and capability to implement rigorous monitoring and evaluation of the project in contexts similar to South Sudan? (4 points) Does the plan include indicators developed for each program milestone, and incorporated into the financial and programmatic reports? Are the indicators consistent with the President's Emergency Plan Indicator Guide? Is the system able to generate financial and program reports to show disbursement of funds, and progress towards achieving the numerical objectives of the President's Emergency Plan? (6 points) Is the plan to measure outcomes of the intervention, and the manner in which they will be provided, adequate? Is the monitoring and evaluation plan consistent with the principles of the "Three Ones"¹? "Applicants must define specific output and outcome indicators in

¹ The Emergency Plan supports the multi-sectoral national responses in host nations, adapting U.S. support to the individual needs and challenges of each nation where the Emergency Plan is at work. Countries and communities are at different stages of HIV/AIDS response and have unique drivers of HIV, distinctive social and cultural patterns (particularly with regard to the status of women), and different political and economic conditions. Effective interventions must be informed by local circumstances and coordinated with local efforts. In April 2004, OGAC, working with UNAIDS, the World Bank, and the U.K. Department for International Development (DfID), organized and co-chaired a major international conference in Washington for major donors and national partners to consider and adopt key principles for

the proposal, and must have realistic targets in line with the targets addressed in the Activities section of this announcement. (3 points)

Understanding of the Problem (5 points):

Does the applicant demonstrate a clear and concise understanding of the current national HIV/AIDS response and the cultural and political context relevant to the programmatic areas targeted? (2 points) Does the applicant display an understanding of the Five-Year Strategy and goals of the President's Emergency Plan? To what extent does the applicant justify the need for this program within the target community? (3 points)

Personnel (10 points):

Does the organization employ staff fluent in local languages who will work on this project? Are the staff roles clearly defined? As described, will the staff be sufficient to meet the goals of the proposed project? (4 points) If not an indigenous organization, does the staff plan adequately involve local individuals and organizations? Are staff involved in this project qualified to perform the tasks described? (6 points) Curricula vitae provided should include information that they are qualified in the following: management of HIV/AIDS prevention activities, especially confidential, voluntary counseling and testing; and the development of capacity building among and collaboration between Governmental and non-governmental partners.

Administration and Management (10 points):

Does the applicant provide a clear plan for the administration and management of the proposed activities, and to manage the resources of the program, prepare reports, monitor and evaluate activities, audit expenditures and produce collect and analyze

supporting coordinated country-driven action against HIV/AIDS. These principles became known as the “Three Ones”: - **one national plan, one national coordinating authority, and one national monitoring and evaluation system** in each of the host countries in which organizations work. Rather than mandating that all contributors do the same things in the same ways, the Three Ones facilitate complementary and efficient action in support of host nations.

performance data? Is the management structure for the project sufficient to ensure speedy implementation of the project? If appropriate, does the applicant have a proven track record in managing large laboratory budgets; multiple large surveillance and evaluation activities; running transparent and competitive procurement processes; supervising consultants and contractors; using subgrants or other systems of sharing resources with community based organizations, faith based organizations or smaller non-governmental organizations; and providing technical assistance in laboratory or pharmacy management? (10 points) The grantee must demonstrate an ability to submit quarterly reports in a timely manner to the HHS/CDC office.

Budget (SF 424A) and Budget Narrative (Reviewed, but not scored):

Is the itemized budget for conducting the project, along with justification, reasonable and consistent with stated objectives and planned program activities? Is the budget itemized, well justified and consistent with the goals of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief? If applicable, are there reasonable costs per client reached for both year one and later years of the project?

If the applicants requests indirect costs in the budget, a copy of the indirect cost rate agreement is required. If the indirect cost rate is a provisional rate, the agreement should be less than 12 months of age. The indirect cost rate agreement should be uploaded as a PDF file with "Other Attachment Forms" when submitting via Grants.gov.

The indirect cost rate agreement does not apply to international applicants.

The applicant can obtain guidance for completing a detailed justified budget on the CDC website, at the following Internet address:

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/budgetguide.htm>

Funding Preferences (5 points):

In addition to direct consideration of findings from the Objective Review Panel, funding under this award will be subject to a preference based on programmatic needs and in-country strategic priorities. **Applicants meeting the criteria set forth in this funding preference will receive additional points beyond the possible total of 100 as follows:**

- Funding preference will be given to “PEPFAR Local Partners.” In order to meet the funding preference, the applicant must submit proof that identifies it as a “PEPFAR Local Partner” as defined in the Eligibility Section of this FOA (5 points).

Review and Selection Process

Review

All eligible applications will be initially reviewed for completeness by the Procurement and Grants Office (PGO) staff. In addition, eligible applications will be jointly reviewed for responsiveness by HHS/CDC Division of Global HIV/AIDS and PGO. Incomplete applications and applications that are non-responsive to the eligibility criteria will not advance through the review process. Applicants will be notified the application did not meet eligibility and/or published submission requirements.

An objective review panel will evaluate complete and responsive applications according to the criteria listed in Section V. Application Review Information, subsection entitled “Criteria”. The panel may include both U.S. Federal Government and non-U.S. Federal Government participants.

Selection

Applications will be funded in order by score and rank determined by the review panel unless funding preferences or other considerations stated in the FOA apply.

In addition, the following factors may affect the funding decision:

- Funding preference will be given to “PEPFAR Local Partners” as defined in the Eligibility Section of this FOA.

CDC will provide justification for any decision to fund out of rank order.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive a Notice of Award (NoA) from the CDC Procurement and Grants Office. The NoA shall be the only binding, authorizing document between the recipient and CDC. The NoA will be signed by an authorized Grants Management Officer and e-mailed to the program director. A hard copy of the NoA will be mailed to the recipient fiscal officer identified in the application. Any application awarded in response to this FOA will be subject to the DUNS, CCR Registration and Transparency Act requirements.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive notification of the results of the application review by mail and/or e-mail.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Successful applicants must comply with the administrative requirements outlined in 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 74 or Part 92, as appropriate. The following additional requirements apply to this project:

- AR-4 HIV/AIDS Confidentiality Provisions
- AR-5 HIV Program Review Panel Requirements
- AR-6 Patient Care
- AR-8 Public Health System Reporting Requirements
- AR-9 Paperwork Reduction Act Requirements
- AR-10 Smoke-Free Workplace Requirements
- AR-12 Lobbying Restrictions
- AR-14 Accounting System Requirements
- AR-15 Proof of Non-Profit Status
- AR-16 Security Clearance Requirement
- AR-21 Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Business
- AR-23 States and Faith-Based Organizations
- AR-24 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Requirements
- AR-25 Release and Sharing of Data
- AR-27 Conference Disclaimer and Use of Logos

- AR-29 Compliance with E.O. 13513 Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging While Driving, October 1, 2009.
- AR-30 Information Letter 10-006. – Compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Additional information on the requirements can be found on the CDC Web site at the following Internet address: http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/Addtl_Reqmnts.htm

For more information on the Code of Federal Regulations, see the National Archives and Records Administration at the following Internet address:

<http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfr-table-search.html>

Reporting

Federal Funding Accountability And Transparency Act Of 2006 (FFATA): Public Law 109-282, the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 as amended (FFATA), requires full disclosure of all entities and organizations receiving Federal funds including grants, contracts, loans and other assistance and payments through a single publicly accessible Web site, www.USASpending.gov. The Web site includes information on each Federal financial assistance award and contract over \$25,000, including such information as:

1. The name of the entity receiving the award
2. The amount of the award
3. Information on the award including transaction type, funding agency, etc.
4. The location of the entity receiving the award
5. A unique identifier of the entity receiving the award; and
6. Names and compensation of highly-compensated officers (as applicable)

Compliance with this law is primarily the responsibility of the Federal agency. However, two elements of the law require information to be collected and reported by recipients: 1) information on executive compensation when not already reported through the Central

Contractor Registry; and 2) similar information on all sub-awards/subcontracts/consortiums over \$25,000.

For the full text of the requirements under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, please review the following website:

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_bills&docid=f:s2590enr.txt.pdf

Each funded applicant must provide CDC with an annual Interim Progress Report submitted via www.grants.gov:

1. The interim progress report is due no less than 90 days before the end of the budget period. The Interim Progress Report will serve as the non-competing continuation application, and must contain the following elements:
 - a. Standard Form (“SF”) 424S Form;
 - b. SF-424A Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs;
 - c. Budget Narrative;
 - d. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement;
 - e. Project Narrative;
 - f. Activities and Objectives for the Current Budget Period;
 - g. Interim Financial Status Report (SF-269) for the current budget period;
 - h. Proposed Activity and Objectives for the New Budget Period Program;
 - i. Budget;
 - j. Measures of Effectiveness, including progress against the numerical goals of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief for South Sudan; and

Additionally, funded applicants must provide CDC with an original, plus two hard copies of the following reports:

2. Quarterly Progress Reports – In addition to the Interim Progress Report and the Final performance and Financial Status Reports, quarterly reports are required 90

days after submission of the Final Performance and Financial Status Reports, and, 90 days after submission of the Interim Progress Report. Reports shall include:

- a. Activities and Objectives for the current quarter;
 - b. Financial progress for the current quarter; and
3. Financial Status Report (SF 269) - An annual progress report, due no more than 90 days after the end of the budget period.]
 4. Final performance and Financial Status Reports - Due no more than 90 days after the end of the project period.

*Disclaimer: As of February 1, 2011, current Financial Status Report (FSR) requirements will be obsolete. Existing practices will be updated to reflect changes for implementation of the new Federal Financial Reporting (FFR) requirements.

These reports must be submitted to the attention of the Grants Management Specialist listed in the Section VIII below entitled “Agency Contacts”.

Human Subjects Restrictions

Data collection protocols required for release of human subjects funding restrictions must be submitted to the DGHA Science Office within 6 months of notification of such restrictions, but no later than the end of the first budget year. Requests for exceptions to these deadlines will need to be submitted in writing to the Grants Management Officer.

All protocol approvals should be obtained no later than the end of the subsequent budget period after the award or continuation has been made, provided that the Grantee has not been granted an exception to the deadlines specified above.

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS

CDC encourages inquiries concerning this announcement.

For programmatic technical assistance, contact:

Mike St. Louis, Project Officer

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd, NE MS-E41
Atlanta, GA 30333
Telephone: 404.639.1635
E-mail: MStLouis@cdc.gov

For financial, grants management, or budget assistance, contact:

Michelle Ranger, Grants Management Specialist
Department of Health and Human Services
CDC Procurement and Grants Office
2920 Brandywine Road, MS: K-75
Atlanta, GA 30341
Telephone: 770-488-2069
E-mail: MRanger@cdc.gov

For assistance with **submission difficulties**, contact:

Grants.gov Contact Center Phone: 1-800-518-4726.

Hours of Operation: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Closed on Federal holidays.

For **submission** questions, contact:

Technical Information Management Section
Department of Health and Human Services
CDC Procurement and Grants Office
2920 Brandywine Road, MS E-14
Atlanta, GA 30341
Telephone: 770-488-2700
Email: pgotim@cdc.gov

CDC Telecommunications for the hearing impaired or disabled is available at: TTY 770-488-2783.

VIII. Other Information

Amendments, Questions and Answers (Q&As)

Applicants must submit their Q&As, if any, to the Project Officer listed under the Agency Contacts Section of this announcement no later than 15 days after the publication date in www.grants.gov. All amendment and Q&As will be published in [grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) following the approval of CDC. No amendments or Q&As will be accepted past the due date.

For additional information on reporting requirements, visit the CDC website at:

http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/grants/additional_req.shtm

Other CDC funding opportunity announcements can be found on Grants.gov Web site, Internet address: <http://www.grants.gov>.