

## Questions and Answers – 9/8/2014

### Funding Opportunity Announcement CDC-RFA-GH15-1505

#### *Surveys, Surveillance, and Informatics Involving HIV and TB in Botswana under the Presidents Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)*

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##### Questions and Answers by email

Q:

I am interested in funding opportunity CDC-RFA-GH15-1505 and note that the eligibility criteria state "all other eligible organizations." Please could you confirm whether this includes international organizations?

R:

International Organizations are eligible to apply for funding opportunity announcement CDC-RFA-GH15-1580 as listed on pages 19-21 of the FOA. Part II. Full Text, C Eligibility Information, 1. Eligible Applicants

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Q:

On page 8 of the attached document it states that "applicants must submit a separate application for the program area they intend to implement or work in". Can you confirm that this means that we should submit completely different packages including federal forms, narrative and budget for program areas 1 and 2 with page limits applying separately to each one?

R:

Yes, for every program area you intend to implement or work in, you must submit an independent package, to include a project narrative, budget narrative, relevant appendices, and the other required forms specified in the FOA. The program areas under this FOA will be independently reviewed, so applicants must submit individual complete applications for each of the 2 review sessions for this FOA.

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Q:

On page 19 of the attached it states that "applicants must only apply for the first budget period funding, taking into consideration the floor of the individual award range and the ceiling of the individual award range". Does this mean that we should leave blank or enter "zero" for the fields requesting future year funding on the application?

R:

Yes, you are correct that only the first budget period funding is requested. Your budget and budget narrative must propose the first year of funding only and must not exceed the ceiling of the individual award range, as instructed on page 23. You may leave the future year funding blank.

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Q:

On page 41 it says funding preference will be given for submitting "at least one annual report describing similar work in sub-Saharan Africa and the outcomes of that work". Does this need to be from another CDC grant and does it need to be for the same principal investigator or another project performed by our organization?

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R:

The annual report submitted must describe similar work and the outcomes of that work. The annual report should be reflective of the project performed by the organization applying for the award.

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Q:

In this FOA there is language stating that; "Indirect costs will not be reimbursed under grants to foreign organizations, international organizations, and foreign components of grants to domestic organizations (does not affect indirect cost reimbursement to the domestic entity for domestic activities)." Is this a prohibition against subcontracting with a foreign organization that would charge our grant indirect costs if funded? We have seen somewhat similar terms in other FOAs and it has not posed a problem but it is of sufficient importance that we wanted to make sure.

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R:

Per 45 CFR, Part 74, App E (V) Indirect Cost and OMB 2 CFR Part 230 foreign organizations are not allowed Indirect Cost. However, this will not prohibit any domestic organizations from subcontracting with foreign organizations.

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Q:

Under section 15 Funding Restrictions, the final bullet point on Page 29 'Public Financial Management Assessment Clause.' The clause states 'The Parties acknowledge that HHS/CDC has assessed the recipient's systems required to manage the activities supported with US Government funds under this Agreement and that this Agreement is expressly conditioned upon that assessment.' has not been directly assessed by HHS/CDC in this regard, please confirm this won't preclude us from applying for or receiving an award.

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R:

This clause does not preclude any applicant from applying or receiving an award.

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Q:

Under section 15 Funding Restrictions, Environmental Impact Statement.  
Is the requirement for the Environmental Mitigation Plan and Report to be submitted as part of the proposal, or is this to be submitted at a later date?

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R:

Applicants are not required to submit Environmental Mitigation Plan and Report as part of the proposal.

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Q:

Section 13: Tobacco and Nutrition policy

If we choose to implement this optional policy, are we expected to write our own policy in this regard for the proposal, or should we acknowledge that it is our intention to implement the CDC policies as they are stated in the RFA.

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R:

As stated on pages 27-28 no applicants will be evaluated or scored on whether they choose to participate in implementing these optional policies. You may acknowledge your intention to implement policies as stated in the RFA in your application.

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Q:

Key positions: As funding is not to be used for research purposes, must we use the terminology of 'Principal Investigator' for the project lead? Or may we use our own terminology, such as Chief of Party.

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R:

You may use your own terminology such as Chief of Party.

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Q:

Key Positions: The title 'Business Official.' Please clarify this role, is it comparable to a Chief Operating Officer position, and can we use this different terminology?

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R:

Business Official is comparable to Chief Operating Officer and you may use that terminology.

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Q:

In the Funding Preference section, under Phase III review (page 41), the deliverable is 'at least one annual report.'

Q5a. Can this be from a report that we share with our donors/partners, or must this be our publicly available Annual Report?

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R:

This may be from a report shared with donors/partners or from a publicly available report.

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Q:

Because of the page restrictions in the appendices, must we submit the whole annual report, or may we extract just the relevant pages?

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R:

It is not necessary to submit the entire report. You may extract the relevant pages for submittal.

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Q:

In situations where you are applying for both program areas 1 TB/HIV and 2 Informatics, is it expected that you have different Technical leads for both program areas, and different service/operations teams? Or can you have one Technical director and operations leading both program areas 1 and 2?

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R:

Applicants may have different Technical leads for both program areas, and different service/operations teams. Applicants may also have one Technical director and operations leading both program areas 1 and 2. Staffing is up to the applicant.

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