

## Questions and Answers – 9/8/2014

### Funding Opportunity Announcement CDC-RFA-GH15-1546

#### ***Support Laboratory Diagnosis and Monitoring to Scale up and Improve HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Services in the Kingdom of Lesotho under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)***

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##### **Questions and Answers by email**

Q:

On Page 19 of the RFA, under Section B. Award Information, it states that the "Budget Period Length: Twelve Months" and the "Total Project Period Length is five years".

Does CDC request a detailed budget and justification for just the "Budget Period Length: Twelve Months" or would CDC prefer a detailed budget per year and justification for the entire "Project Period Length: Five Years?"

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R:

A detailed budget and justification is required for the first twelve (12) months only.

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Q:

On page 19 of the RFA, under Section B. Award Information, number 15. Indirect cost. It states that "Indirect costs will not be reimbursed under grants to foreign organizations, international organizations and foreign components of grants to domestic organization". If the local organizations have an approved NICRA rate, will CDC reimburse indirect cost for the subrecipient? Or if the local organization does not have an approved NICRA rate, but has three years of audited financial statements to justify their indirect cost rate, will CDC reimburse their indirect cost?

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R:

The subgrantee (U.S. domestic organizations only) may claim their approved NICRA rate. CDC will not reimburse any organization(s) that does not have an approved NICRA rate established with one of the U.S. federal government agencies.

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Q: On page 26 of the RFA, under Section D, it states, "Applicants must submit CVs/Resumes of the Principal Investigator (PI), Country Project Director, Country Deputy Director for Operations, Laboratory Technical Advisor, and Grant/Budget Management Specialist, as well as detailed job descriptions of these positions." Also, on page 51 of the RFA, under Section H, it states, "Job Descriptions of proposed key positions to be created for the activity, including, but not limited to: Principal Investigator, Business Official, Project Manager." Could CDC clarify the list of key positions?

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R:

The PI of the project, Business Official/Finance Manager and Project Director/Lab Technical Advisor are the key personnel that the applicant must include their CV/Resumes.

Clarification: The Country Project Director could be the Laboratory Technical Advisor. The Business Official is the person who will administer finances and have the signing authority representing the organization along with the PI of the Project. The Business Official could be either the Country Deputy Director for Operations or the Grant/Budget Management specialist or Finance Manager from the applicant organization.

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Q:

What is the minimum level of effort that CDC will accept for key personnel?

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R:

The minimum will be three key personnel: PI of the Project, Business Official, and Lab technical advisor

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Q:

On page 11 of the RFA, there are several references to procuring laboratory equipment and supplies. Understanding that the applicant is expected to support all 180 facilities in Lesotho, what percentage of the budget does CDC envision should be dedicated to laboratory equipment procurement?

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R:

The applicant is not expected to support the procurement of equipment and supplies to all 180 facilities. The applicant will only use up to 10% of its annual budget to procure some minor lab equipment or accessories as a stop gap measure. In addition, the applicant may use up to 10% of its total annual budget to procure some critical supplies and support associated logistics as a stop gap measure to ensure services are not interrupted.

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Q:

On page 14 of the RFA, the following indicator and target are given: "Percentage of individuals who received competency-based, certificate, or higher-level training to conduct or support laboratory services. Total trained: 25." Could CDC clarify that this target refers to 25% of the individuals that participate in the training, rather than 25 individuals total?

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R:

The total target number is 25 individuals.

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Q: The eligibility criteria state "all other eligible organizations". Please could you confirm whether this includes international organizations?

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R:

International Organizations are eligible to apply for funding opportunity announcement CDC-RFA-GH15-1546 as listed on pages 19-20 of the FOA. Part II. Full Text, C Eligibility Information, 1. Eligible Applicants

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Q:

Due to the recent political uncertainties in Lesotho, would CDC grant an extension on the proposal deadline?

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R:

The application due date has been extended. Please see grants.gov for amendments and the revised due date.