

Questions and Answers – 9/8/2014

Funding Opportunity Announcement CDC-RFA-GH15-1510

Building Capacity along the Continuum from Prevention to Care and Treatment for Key Populations in the Central America Region under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

Questions and Answers by phone

Q:

Our organization would like to submit two applications, one for each of the geographic clusters: Cluster A (Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica) and Cluster B (Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, and Panama). Our operational plan and budget will change if we receive one or both awards. How should we reflect this in the proposals?

R:

Proposals should describe how the applicant organization's operational plan and budgets will shift if working in 3 countries (Cluster A), 4 countries (Cluster B), or in 7 countries (A & B combined). Budgets will be reviewed and approved prior to award, and programmatic budget adjustments will be requested during the Technical Review process.

Q:

I would like to confirm if it is allowed the alliance between two NGOs to apply to each cluster or it is something unallowed.

R:

Subcontracts, subgrantees, and other sub-agreements are allowable. An eligible entity must be the prime applicant.

Q:

On page 3, in section "e" of the Executive Summary, the RFA states that the average one year award amount is \$1,500,000 for Cluster A and \$1,500,000 for Cluster B. Could you please clarify whether the \$1.5M is an annual amount for each cluster or if it is actually the total amount for the entire project period (5 years)?

R:

Annual budgets are established through the Interagency PEPFAR team and approved by the U.S. Congress. The estimated amount for each cluster in year one is \$1.5M.

Q:

On page 42 under Funding Restrictions, it states "Generally, awardees may not use HHS/CDC/ATSDR funding for the purchase of furniture or equipment". In order to strengthen the capacity of the etiologic and clinical diagnosis of anal STIs and health, it may be required to purchase equipment. Additionally, to build office capacity in any of the countries of interest will likely require purchase of office equipment. Please clarify if these particular items are still restricted for purchase with HHS/CDC/ATSDR funding.

R:

The funding restriction applies. Any proposed purchase of furniture or equipment will require prior approval. Funding for renovations is generally not allowed and requires special advanced planning and PEPFAR approvals.