

## Questions and Answers – 9/16/2014

### Funding Opportunity Announcement CDC-RFA-GH15-1519

#### ***Establishing Community-Based, Comprehensive Self-Sustainable Clinical Services for MSM Living with HIV/STI in the Dominican Republic under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)***

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##### **Questions and Answers from workshop**

Q:

In the case that an international organization responds to the call for proposal with one or more local partners, is the proposed 30 additional points referred on the paragraph on funding preference also be assigned as part of the added value of local partners?

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R:

The additional points as indicated in the call for proposal only applies to national organizations that are leading the consortium of applicants who meet the following requirements:

1. Preference will be given to local and indigenous organizations with proven experience providing services to MSM, TG and Bisexuals. (15 points)

Requirement: Letter of support from the Ministry of Public Health of the Dominican Republic that explains the experience, relevance and contribution of the local organization serving MSM, TG and Bisexuals in the country.

2. Preferences will be given to local and indigenous organizations (15 points)

Requirements: Letter from the Principal Investigator (PI) that clearly demonstrates how the organization meets one of the criteria published which defines a PEPFAR local partner, as indicated in Section C.1 of the call for proposal.

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Q:

Will the proposal target MSM populations with HIV?

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R:

The primary population targeted is MSM, TRANS and Bi-sexual individuals living HIV and STDs

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Q:

What is an individual partner?

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R:

An individual partner if you are a grant applicant, is an individual who is submitting a grant application on your own behalf and not on behalf of a company, institution, state, local or tribal government, or other type of organization, refer to: <http://www.grants.gov/documents/19/18243/GrantsGovApplicantUserGuide.pdf>. If you apply as an individual to a grant application package designated for organizations, your application will be rejected.

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Q:

What is currently being done to sensitize service providers?

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R:

CDC has an existing cooperative agreement that is building capacity to sensitize the health care workers.

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Q:

Should the Work plan be presented for year one or for all 5 years?

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R:

As stated on page 18, "Applicants must submit a detailed work plan for the first year of the project and a high level plan for the subsequent years."

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Q:

Can an agency apply with different consortiums?

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R:

Yes, an agency can apply with different consortiums, but the application must be the same. If the evaluation panel considers that the applications are the same, both will be disqualified

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Q:

Do the international agencies have 30 points less?

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R:

No, international organizations will not have 30 points less. Local and indigenous organizations may apply for and receive additional points through funding preferences.

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Q:

Should letters presented with the application be in English or Spanish?

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R:

All documents to be submitted with the application must be in English.

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Q:

Are the letters and the memorandums the same?

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R:

No, letters of support and memorandum of understanding are not the same. As stated on page 27 "Applicants should file an original signed copy of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Dominican Ministry of Health (MOH) stating that, if successful, the MOH will support at least two doctors, two nurses, and one laboratorian who will conduct their mandatory 12 month internship at each facility, ARVs for people living with HIV, test kits and other key consumables funded by the MOH for at least five years. This should be submitted as part of the appendix, name the file "Memorandum of Understanding," and upload as a PDF file at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

Applicants must file a maximum of five letters of support from the Dominican Ministry of Health and from other organizations with which they have alliances. These must be submitted as part of the appendix, name the files "Letters of Support," and upload as PDF files at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

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Q:

Can the clinics be the same as the Integral Attention Services (SAI)?

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R:

No, these will be self-sustaining clinics.

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Q:

The memorandum is an official document that has to be in Spanish, do we have to translate it to English?

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R:  
All documents must be submitted in English.

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Q:  
In the case that an organization has a general agreement memorandum, is it valid?

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R:  
No, this is not necessarily valid. The memorandum must meet the conditions stated on page 27 of this FOA.

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Q:  
Do the medical interns have to be assigned by the Ministry of Public Health or not?

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R:  
No, the interns do not have to be assigned by the Ministry of Public Health

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Q:  
Can the salaries of the medical personnel be paid with CDC funds?

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R:  
Yes, the salaries of the medical personnel can be paid with CDC funds?

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Q:  
Are we allowed to purchase antiretroviral with money from this award?

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R:  
All proposals must conform to the limitations established and in the case of this proposal (GH15-1519) Medications are NOT allowed to be purchase with project funds.

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Q:  
The funds for the baseline are 15%?

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R:  
Up to 15%

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Q:  
The budget has to be presented for the 5 years or for the first year?

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R:  
As stated on page 21 of the FOA, applicants must only apply for the first budget period funding. This is the first 12 months.

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Q:  
Is the exchange rate used base on the exchange rate of that day?

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R:  
The exchange rate to be used is the official exchange rate of the day. The budget has to be presented in U.S. dollars at the official exchange rate of the day.

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Q:  
Can the monies be received in dollars and then exchanged to pesos?

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R:

The funds will be transferred via a Payment Management System and can only be done in USD.

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Q:

Can we account for unforeseen cost?

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R:

Unforeseen costs are not permitted as part of the budget.

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Q:

Is it CDC's policy to pay everyone fringe benefits?

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R:

Fringe benefits are paid in accordance with the policy of the organization.

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