Questions and Answers – 9/18/2014

Funding Opportunity Announcement CDC-RFA-GH14-1410

Civil Society Partnerships for Capacity Strengthening to Respond to the Joint Family/Sexual Violence (FSV) and HIV Epidemics in Papua New Guinea (PNG) under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

Questions and Answers from Pre-application workshop

Q:
We are an international organization, which is registered with IPA in Papua New Guinea. We don't have one Board of Directors in PNG. Out of the 18 staff, only 3 are expatriates and of the 5 management staff, 2 are nationals. Is our organization eligible to apply?

_____

R:
In the FOA, the eligibility criteria in Section III, pages 18-19 states clearly who qualifies as a PEPFAR local partner in PNG under the three criteria (individual, corporation/partnership, and joint venture/association/consortium).

Q:
Who is your contact for eligibility to apply?

_____

R:
The Q&A period for this FOA closed on September 17, 2014. Please refer to FOA Section II on pages 18-20 for eligibility information. Please refer to the Agency Contacts section for contacts on pages 63 to 64 of the FOA.

Q:
HIV prevention programs can take several years to show results. Does CDC allow submission of a multi-year plan (3 years) based on the understanding that budgets are confirmed and allocated on a yearly basis?

_____

R:
The Project Period stated on page 17 of the FOA is 5 years. Applicants Project Narrative/Work Plan as described on pages 25-26 of the FOA should address activities to be conducted over the entire project period. As stated on page 18 of the FOA, "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."

Q:
Under objective 1, it states advocating for key populations. In PNG, the definition of KP is disputed. What is the definition of KP under this program?

_____

R:
In this FOA, KPs would refer to FSWs and MSMs.
The FOA includes KPs and is not limited to certain geographic areas in PNG, within the guidelines of the FOA.

Q:
Is the program limited to the KP group definition or does it include other groups of people as well as other vulnerable people?

_____

R:
The FOA states that the application should include KPs

Q:
Please explain funding preferences

_____

R:
Funding Preferences do not apply to this FOA.

Q:
Is this program for the whole of PNG or limited to geographical areas?

_____

R:
It will be determined by the CSO's programs and the burden of the diseases and issues in different areas.

Q:
How many contracts will be awarded for this program?

_____

R:
One applicant will be awarded through this cooperative agreement if funding is available.

Q:
Does the award cover funding for the LCI technical expertise/support?

_____

R:
No, central funding will be used for these activities

Q:
Who manages the grant process?

_____

R:
CDC manages the process

Q:
How long is the screening process?

_____

R:
Three to four months; notification of the successful applicant is anticipated for February, 2015

Q:
Does CDC Port Moresby have flyers/brochures?

_____

R:
Yes and is available on the Internet at: http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/Papua-New-Guinea/

Q:
Explain the registration process.

_____

R:
The required registration for DUNS, SAM and Grants.gov was reemphasized.
Those who already have DUNS numbers do not have to reapply for DUNS.
Please do not wait until just before the deadline. Start straight away because the application process itself is challenging, and you need time to complete it successfully.

Q:
When we are writing the proposal, where or whom do we get guidance information?

_____

R:
The Q&A period for this FOA closed on September 17, 2014. CDC cannot provide responses to questions since Q&A is now closed. CDC cannot provide guidance to applicants on their proposals. Applicants are all encouraged to start working on applications now. Do not wait till the last minute. It is better to start early, so there is sufficient time to complete and submit on time.

Q:
Does this grant fund building or renovations?

_____

R:
No, this FOA does not fund construction or renovations.

Q:
In the Application Evaluation Criteria scoring for personnel, does CDC want certain staff or staff functions?

_____

R:
Applicants are encouraged to submit the following information on staff in the appendix as stated on page 65:
Resumes/CVs of current key staff who will work on the activity, including, but not limited to: Principal Investigator, Business Official, Project Manager
Job Descriptions of proposed key positions to be created for the activity, including, but not limited to: Principal Investigator, Business Official, Project Manager

The specific staff and responsibilities are at the discretion of the applicant.

Q:
Can you take us through the objectives: How do KPs fit into the HIV/STI/FSV?

_____

R:
The three objectives were read and are list on page 8.
As you may be thinking, the huge challenge is FSV, followed by HIV and STI. But the application should include KPs as per the FOA.

Q:
Do we include the general population?

_____

R:
In the FOA, services may overlap to the general population but we are to address HIV/STI/FSV including KPs.
We want to be effective stakeholders and advocate at all levels of government: national, provincial, and district, village levels.

Q:
On capacity building, whose capacity or what capacity do we need to improve: is it the capacity for the NGOs, or is it for affected population?

_____

R:
Capacity building in the FOA refers to increasing the capacity of local CSOs, to work with and advocate for the affected population to addressing GBV issues, and others.

Q:
For International Organizations, can operational and management costs which lead to direct cost be included as direct costs?

_____

R:
Any management and operations costs considered as direct costs must be justified. No indirect or miscellaneous/other costs are allowed.

Q:
For the KPs, do we need to concentrate on the infected population only?

_____

R:
The FOA states in Objective 1 … populations, including KPs, affected by HIV/AIDS, STI and/or FSV that can include more than just the infected population.