

Questions and Answers – 12/18/2015

Funding Opportunity Announcement CDC-RFA-GH16-1630

Achieving HIV Epidemic Control through Scaling up Quality Testing, Care and Treatment in Malawi under the President’s Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

	Question	Response
1.	Does the “Special Eligibility Requirements” around local partners constrain or further refine the scope for the “Eligible Applicants” list? Or, stated another way, are only local partner organizations who also fit the general “eligible applicants” criteria eligible?	This is an open competition funding opportunity announcement as stated on page 5 of the FOA. All organizations, including organizations that meet the PEPFAR local partner definition, are eligible to apply.
2.	Is a consortium allowed? It seems to be mentioned only in the context of defining a local partner.	Consortiums are eligible to apply. It is at discretion of the applicant.
3.	Would it be possible to schedule a call with the appropriate contact to discuss the FOA and what opportunity might be here for our organization?	As stated on page 4, an informational conference call will not be held for this FOA. Your organization should review the FOA, and determine fit with eligibility listed on pages 19 and 20 and capacity to implement activities and achieve the stated outcomes when considering whether or not to apply. If you have specific questions about the FOA, please submit those in writing in accordance with the Questions and Answers section of the FOA on page 49. CDC is unable to convene a call with your organization as that could provide your organization with an unfair advantage.
4.	Will CDC provide a list of districts that will be supported by the award(s) under this FOA	The list of districts will be provided to the successful applicant in line with interagency discussions on geographic prioritization which are reviewed on an annual basis.
5.	Would CDC please confirm that all scale up and saturation sites referred to in the FOA are equivalent to “Scale-up to Saturation” sites rather than “Aggressive Scale-up” sites, as defined on page 58 of the PEPFAR Country/Regional Operational Plan Guidance 2016, and that maintenance districts are equivalent to “Sustained Districts” defined on page 59 of the PEFAR Guidance?	This is correct however as indicated in the response above, the site lists will be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the interagency COP process. The current PEPFAR definitions for site categorization will be adhered to.
6.	On page 8, the FOA states that “Site specific activities will include a shift to direct government support over the next six months but must be negotiated with the government to ensure no interruption of services. Site level support would end by Sept 2015-March 2016.” Please confirm that no transition sites are	Transition or sustained sites are identified as part of an interagency process and in collaboration with the MOH. In accordance with the PEPFAR guidance transition processes will be mapped out as part of an annual review process in coordination with other stakeholders. Transition sites may therefore be included in this award and is dependent on an annual

	included in this award, as the program will be awarded after March 2016.	review of geographic prioritization and the degree of unmet need for HIV testing as well as ART coverage.
7.	Would CDC consider extending the deadline by two weeks for this FOA to compensate for days lost during the proposal preparation period due to holiday closures of ministry and country offices?	The application deadline date will not be extended due to holiday closures. The FOA was posted on December 3, 2015 and closes on February 3, 2016. Applicants have 62 days to submit applications. During this time period there are 2 public holidays in the US and/or Malawi on a business day (December 25, 28) and in January there are 3 (January 1, 15, 18).
8.	On page 36, the FOA includes a requirement for the submission of a Data Release Plan with the application in accordance with the CDC Policy on Releasing and Sharing Data. The referenced policy defines data as “scientific records” and in the section on the obligations of grantees, contractors and partners reference is made to researchers. As this application is for a non-research program, please confirm if the requirement to submit a Data Release Plan applies.	That is correct, this is a non-research program. The requirement to submit a Data Release Plan will apply when research is conducted, in accordance with the policy.