

Questions and Answers – 12/19/2015

Funding Opportunity Announcement CDC-RFA-GH16-1646

Strategic Scale up of Community-Based HIV Testing and Counselling (CBHTC) and Linkage to Treatment to Optimize Response for Epidemic Control (SCORE Project) in Swaziland under the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

	Question	Response
1.	On page 8 of the RFA, the logic model includes four Long-Term Outcomes, but only one of those Long-Term Outcomes is listed in section ii. Outcomes (page 9). Can CDC clarify if applicants should include the full set of four Long-Term Outcomes or only the Long-Term Outcome listed on page	The awardee will be directly responsible for the outcomes listed on page 9 in ii. Outcomes. Awardees are expected, through this FOA, to indirectly contribute to the achievement of all of the long term outcomes in the logic model on page 8.
2.	The RFA includes outcomes related to interventions by trained Health Care Workers (HCWs) and Community Workers (CWs) under Short-Term Outcomes. As there are many types of HCWs and CWs in Swaziland, can CDC provide further clarification and definition of the cadres of HCWs and CWs referenced?	Health care workers include nurses, individuals trained in counseling and HIV testing, trainers and expert clients. Community workers include outreach workers, trainers and peer educators.
3.	In Swaziland, it seems that community-based initiation of ART is moving forward, however the RFA includes conditional language regarding inclusion of community-based initiation of ART (page 10). Is there openness at CDC to the applicant including community-based initiation of ART in the proposal?	Yes. Applicant should note that, although community - based ART provision seems to be moving forward, the draft strategy on models for community - based ART delivery only talks to refills. Community - based ART initiations is still subject to finding the right strategies and getting MoH approval; or revising the current draft document to include community - based ART initiation before it is launched.
4.	On page 12, the RFA presents that CDC Swaziland will work with the awardee to demonstrate program impact through process and outcome evaluation of funded activities. Are these activities that the applicant should budget for? If yes, can CDC provide the list of activities to be budgeted, or an indication of the amount which should be budgeted? Do these activities fall within the minimum 10% of the budget dedicated to monitoring and evaluation?	These activities fall within the minimum 10% of the budget to be dedicated to monitoring and evaluation and applicant budgets should be prepared accordingly.
5.	On page 13, the RFA presents that CDC Swaziland will conduct mid-term and end-term evaluations. Should the applicant budget for these activities? If yes, should the applicant also propose the evaluation methodology, sampling methods and technique for these evaluations? Should the	Yes, the applicant should budget for evaluations and propose and evaluation plan with proposal. The plan proposed is at the discretion of the applicant and will be assessed by objective reviewers at Phase II Review.

Questions and Answers – 12/19/2015

Funding Opportunity Announcement CDC-RFA-GH16-1646

	applicant identify an independent agency to conduct these evaluations in the proposal? Or, will CDC manage these aspects of the evaluation?	As stated in the Reporting section of the FOA, “With support from CDC, awardees must elaborate their initial applicant evaluation and performance measurement plan. This plan must be no more than 20 pages; awardees must submit the plan 6 months into the award. HHS/CDC will review and approve the recipient’s monitoring and evaluation plan to ensure that it is appropriate for the activities to be undertaken as part of the agreement, for compliance with the monitoring and evaluation guidance established by HHS/CDC, or other guidance otherwise applicable to this Agreement.”
6.	Similarly, on page 15, the RFA presents monitoring activities between CDC and the awardee. Should the applicant budget for these activities? Can CDC provide the list of activities to be budgeted, or an indication of the amount which should be budgeted? Do these activities fall within the minimum 10% of the budget dedicated to monitoring and evaluation?	Page 15 describes the approach CDC will take to monitor and evaluate the award.
7.	The RFA requests submission of Curricula Vitae (CVs)/Resumes of the Principal Investigator (PI), Country Director, Technical Director, and Business Officer, as well as detailed job descriptions of these key positions. Are all four of these positions required, or may applicants propose an alternate staffing plan which ensures quality of programmatic, technical and financial management of the program?	The staffing plan is at the discretion of the applicant. All proposals will be assessed by objective reviewers using the Phase II review criteria.
8.	On page 32, the RFA presents the environmental mitigation plan and report requirement. On page 35, the RFA presents the data release plan requirement. Are these requirements at this proposal phase or post award?	These are post award requirements.
9.	For the performance indicators listed on pages 13-14, do annual targets refer to the first 12 months of program implementation or each year of the five years of the total project period?	The annual targets refer to targets for each year of the 5 year project period. Throughout the 5 year project period CDC Swaziland may refine the targets as needed.
10.	As regards the 8% rule: a. Can CDC provide an estimated budget amount for FY2017 PEPFAR program funding for Swaziland?	All applicants are encouraged to apply for the FOA. The 8% rule is detailed on pages 34-35 of the FOA. The limit does not apply to application or pre award. In the event that the ceiling of 8% or \$2million is exceeded when

Questions and Answers – 12/19/2015

Funding Opportunity Announcement CDC-RFA-GH16-1646

	<p>b. Does the limit for the total amount awarded to a partner organization include sub-awards that the partner manages on behalf of other organizations? Does the limit include funding received as a sub-award by the partner organization?</p> <p>c. In a consortium, does the 8% rule apply to partner sub-grantees as well as to the prime?</p>	<p>the award is made, CDC will seek a waiver from the 8% rule.</p>
--	--	--