Questions and Answers – 12/30/2015

Funding Opportunity Announcement CDC-RFA-GH16-1643

Programmatic Implementation and Technical Assistance (TA) for HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB) Prevention, Care, and Treatment Services throughout the Health System in South Africa under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

Questions from the Informational Conference Call

	Question	Response
1.	Would we need to address all 6 objectives?	The scope of the application is ultimately at the discretion of the applicant. However, At Phase II Review, objective reviewers assess applications against all of the requirements of the FOA including all objectives using the phase II review criteria.
2.	Do we need to provide TA and DSD in all 27 priority areas?	The scope of the application is ultimately at the discretion of the applicant. However, At Phase II Review, objective reviewers assess applications against all of the requirements of the FOA including all priority areas using the phase II review criteria.
3.	Would you please clarify if Section 10 d, that is ,"Organizational Capacity of Applicants to Implement the Approach", should be submitted as a stand-alone (as is the case with Table of contents, Project Abstract Summary etc.) OR is this section part of the 18 page limit of the Project Narrative?	Please refer to D. Application and Submission Information 10. Project Narrative for information on what must be included in the project narrative submittal. Applicants should address the d. organizational capacity of applicants to implement the approach in the project narrative as required. The attachments referenced in d. organizational capacity of applicants to implement the approach should be uploaded to grants.gov as part of the appendix.
4.	Can you provide more clarity on 27 districts? Currently, CDC supports 12 and others are supported by USAID.	Through this FOA, CDC will support implementation in the 27 priority districts listed under the Target Populations section on Part 2, Page 22-23. Also please see Part 2-CDC Project Description, where it states "At province, district and implementation level, the activities under this award will be closely coordinated with those of USAID and other PEPFAR funded Implementing Partners to ensure optimal collaboration and avoid duplication." CDC will work closely with awardees on final list of implementation locations.
5.	One of our hybrid awards ends in March 2017 – how do we address possible overlap with this FOA?	At province, district, and implementation level, the activities under this award will be closely coordinated with those of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and other PEPFAR-funded IPs to ensure optimal collaboration and avoid duplication. The same principle will be applied to other external stakeholders, such as Global Fund (GF), UN agencies, etc. Applicants are expected to apply to all technical areas/objectives."

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6.	Please clarify the 8% rule [For U.S. Government fiscal year (FY) 2016, the limit is no more than 8 percent of the country's FY2016 PEPFAR program funding (excluding U.S. Government management and staffing costs), or $2 million, whichever is greater	The 8% rule is detailed on page 55 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 the award is made, CDC will seek a waiver from the 8% rule.
7.	Please clarify what "selected PEPFAR support" refers to in objective 6.	Selected districts will be ready for transition. Some districts will not be transitioning.
8.	Is selected partner support determined during implementation or written in application?	Selected PEPFAR support will be determined during the course of implementation, and not by the applicant in the application.
9.	Historically PEPFAR funding was kind of erratically dispersed until the assignment of partners to districts a few years ago. It's a bit confusing now that it's all opening up again. It seems that we have to randomly apply to the areas we're most interested in working in.	The scope of the application is ultimately at the discretion of the applicant. However, At Phase II Review, objective reviewers assess applications against all of the requirements of the FOA including all priority areas using the phase II review criteria.
10.	Should the section on organizational capacity of the applicant be included in the 18 page project narrative or as a standalone document?	Please refer to D. Application and Submission Information 10. Project Narrative for information on what must be included in the project narrative submittal. Applicants should address the d. organizational capacity of applicants to implement the approach in the project narrative as required. The attachments referenced in d. organizational capacity of applicants to implement the approach should be uploaded to grants.gov as part of the appendix.
11.	On page 39 it says "applicants must name the file…" Should all documents be combined in 1 PDF or uploaded separately?	Applicants may upload a combined document with headings/titles on each page or submit separate documents.
12.	Approximate Average Award: $34,000,000;" can a proposal be submitted for more than $34,000,000?	As stated on page 44, the award ceiling for this FOA is $170,000,000. CDC will consider any application requesting an award higher than this amount as nonresponsive and it will receive no further review. The Award Ceiling for year 1 is $170,000,000. If there is only 1 awardee this is the maximum award for year 1. If there are 1-5 awardees as estimated the approximate average year 1 award per awardee is anticipated at $34,000,000 as stated in the Award Information Section.
13.	The FOA refers to an indirect cost rate. If we do not currently have one, is it possible to apply for one before our application is submitted?	If applicant is a US, domestic based organization, indirect costs may be approved. A 10% indirect cost rate may be considered for domestic organizations that are in the process of negotiating their indirect cost rate agreement.

14.	Regarding the award level, executive summary section G states "Average One Year Award Amount: $170,000,000," however page 32 and 33 does not reference individual award amount. Is there a possibility of more than 5 awards over 5 years?	The Award Ceiling for year 1 is $170,000,000. If there is only 1 awardee this is the maximum award for year 1. If there are 1-5 awardees as estimated the approximate average year 1 award per awardee is anticipated at $34,000,000 as stated in the Award Information Section. The maximum number of awards is 5. CDC may make 1-5, five year awards under this FOA.
15.	With regard to the 75% rule – pages 34 and 35, Part II, Full Text C. Eligibility Information 2. Special Eligibility Requirements PEPFAR Local Partner Definition; if an international organization is a sub and grants awards to local organizations, would it count towards the 75%?	An international organization granting awards to local organizations does not meet the definition for PEPFAR local partner. The entity must meet the requirements stated under Special Eligibility Requirements.
16.	Do we have to submit consortium agreement as part of application and if so will it count toward page limit/word count?	All pages limits and word counts apply. It is at the discretion of the applicant to respond to the FOA as a consortia. The application requirements apply to all applicants regardless of organization type. Consortia agreements should be submitted as part of the appendix.
17.	Amendments to the RFA are causing inconsistencies with page number references in the document. Can amendments be posted separately instead of updating the original?	CDC will submit a revised FOA with an updated table of contents.

<u>Questions submitted electronically</u>

	Question	**Response**
1.	Do we understand correctly that the letter from the Government of South Africa demonstrating that Humana People to People-South Africa (HPP-SA) meets the criteria as a local partner is needed after submission (or is it needed at the time of submission)?**	This is a fully competitive FOA. Applicants are not required to meet the local partner definition to apply or to be awarded. As stated in Phase III Review on page 61, there is a 15 point funding preference in this FOA. Applicants seeking the funding preference are required to follow the instructions in the FOA "Each funding preference deliverable must be submitted as part of the appendix, clearly named using the label for the deliverable above, and uploaded as a PDF file at www.grants.gov. Funding preference points will not be awarded to applicants who do not provide the required deliverable for the applicable funding preference. Funding preference points will not be awarded to applicants who fail to label the supporting

		documentation as required to certify the deliverable for the funding preference."
2.	Regarding the Environmental Impact Statement: Do we understand correctly that its forms and plans and tables are to be submitted after the successful applicant has been chosen?	The environmental impact statement is not a requirement of applicants. It is only a requirement of awardees.
3.	Does the proposal need to cover all 27 districts?	The scope of the application is ultimately at the discretion of the applicant. However, At Phase II Review, objective reviewers assess applications against all of the requirements of the FOA including all priority areas using the phase II review criteria.
4.	The RFA contained various references to the award amounts (p. 5, Exec Sum, $170M average one year award amount; p. 32/3 Approx. total fiscal year funding of $170M, approx. project period funding: None; approx. average award: $34M; and, p. 40 award ceiling for the FOA is $170M – CDC will consider nonresponsive any application requesting more than this ceiling) and noting that on p. 33 that applicants can only apply for the first budget period funding not to exceed the "individual award range" which is not defined elsewhere in the FOA. Please clarify what the total individual award range is and for what time period.	The Award Ceiling for year 1 is $170,000,000. If there is only 1 awardee this is the maximum award for year 1. If there are 1-5 awardees as estimated the approximate average year 1 award per awardee is anticipated at $34,000,000 as stated in the Award Information Section. The year 1 award ceiling for this FOA is $170,000,000. CDC will consider any application requesting an award higher than this amount as nonresponsive and it will receive no further review.
5.	Please clarify if the budget narrative should cover one year or the full project term.	The budget narrative should cover the full project term and cover year one in detail.
6.	In regards to the 75/25 rule, specifically, if a local consortium, led by a local partner, had subgrantees which were int'l orgs. and those int'l orgs planned to sub out a large portion of their funds to local orgs. would the amounts subbed to local orgs thru the int'l org be counted as part of the 75% required to go to local orgs in the consortium? IF the local orgs in question (ie those subbing to the int'l org) were to count towards the total portion making up the 75%, would the int'l org have to identify them specifically in our budget/proposal or could we simply say $X would be granted to local orgs?	This is a fully competitive FOA. Applicants are not required to meet the local partner definition to apply or to be awarded. As stated in Phase III Review on page 61, there is a 15 point funding preference in this FOA. Applicants seeking the funding preference are required to follow the instructions in the FOA "Each funding preference deliverable must be submitted as part of the appendix, clearly named using the label for the deliverable above, and uploaded as a PDF file at www.grants.gov. Funding preference points will not be awarded to applicants who do not provide the required deliverable for the applicable funding preference. Funding preference points will not be awarded to applicants who fail to label the supporting documentation as required to certify the deliverable for the funding preference."

		To be considered a local partner and to be eligible for the funding preference, the applicant "must submit documentation demonstrating their organization meets at least one of the three criteria listed above" Your organization would need to demonstrate it meets the criteria. It is not sufficient to demonstrate how you could potentially meet the criteria.
7.	Given the numerous objectives and outputs for this project, we request that the work plan (page 39, #11) not be included in the project narrative 18 page limit.	The FOA will be amended to increase the project narrative limit. The Work Plan should be included in the project narrative submittal.
8.	We request that the "Applicant Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan" (page 38, item C), not be included in the 18 page project narrative?	The FOA will be amended to increase the project narrative limit. The Applicant Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan should be included in the project narrative submittal.
9.	Please confirm that the "Organizational Capacity of Applicants to Implement the Approach" (page 39, item D), is NOT to be included in the project narrative and should be submitted as 4 separate attachments: "Organizational Charts," "Job Descriptions," "CVs/Resumes," and "Experience".	Please refer to pages 42-43 Project Narrative for information on what must be included in the project narrative submittal. Applicants should address the d. organizational capacity of applicants to implement the approach in the project narrative as required. You are correct, the attachments referenced in d. organizational capacity of applicants to implement the approach should be uploaded to grants.gov as part of the appendix.
10.	Are detailed budgets and budget notes required for all subawardees, or only the prime applicant?	They are required for both the prime and subawardees/subcontractors/subgrantees. Please reference page 44 regarding budget preparation
11.	Can the budget narrative be submitted in several documents if needed? We are concerned that the file size of all line-item budgets and narratives for all subawardees will result in a file that is too large to upload.	Yes, the budget narrative can be submitted as multiple files if a single file is too large to upload.
12.	In regards the 8% rule: • Can CDC provide an estimated budget amount for FY2017 PEPFAR program funding for South Africa? • 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?	The 8% rule is detailed on page 55 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 the award is made, CDC will seek a waiver from the 8% rule.

	• In a consortium, does the 8% rule apply to partner sub-grantees as well as to the prime?	
13.	Please clarify whether the geographical splits between CDC and USAID for the priority 27 districts are to be re-competed?	Currently CDC and USAID coordinate the implementation of prevention, care and treatment programs across all 27 priority districts as CDC will work closely with awardee to ensure coordinated implementation with USAID, and other programs. Through this FOA, CDC will support implementation in the 27 priority districts listed under the Target Populations section on Part 2, Page 22-23. Also please see Part 2-CDC Project Description, where it states "At province, district and implementation level, the activities under this award will be closely coordinated with those of USAID and other PEPFAR funded Implementing Partners to ensure optimal collaboration and avoid duplication." CDC will work closely with awardees on final list of implementation locations.
14.	Can CDC provide clarity on what is determined as Technical Assistance and Transition in the scope of this FoA?	TA is defined as "Advice, assistance, or training pertaining to program development, implementation, maintenance, or evaluation that is provided by the funding agency." Transition is defined as "Sustained high quality service delivery and/or TA after the withdrawal of CDC financial support."
15.	It concerns the new USG rules and the possibility for local organizations that does not have a NICRA to include "USG de minimis rate of 10%" in its budget. As we understand it, being able to apply the "de minimis rate" is now a new standard USG rule related to organizations without a NICRA rate and a procedure that can be applied to CDC opportunities, as well. We would be grateful it CDC could look into this question.	Indirect Costs are only allowable to domestic organizations with a current, federally-negotiated indirect cost rate. Foreign based partners are not permitted to claim indirect costs. Those costs must be charged as a direct cost. However, if a foreign organization contracts with a domestic organizations, that domestic organization is eligible to claim their approved rate. The organization must submit the indirect cost rate agreement to the prime recipient as part of their contractual budget. Those "indirect costs" would be part of the overall contractual costs, not the directly funded partner's indirect cost. As stated previously, indirect costs are not allowable for foreign-based partners.