

SO15-1501: Educating State-level Stakeholders on Strategies to Address Winnable Battles in Public Health (FAQs)

1. What is the purpose of Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) SO15-1501?

This funding opportunity announcement will provide funds to provide capacity building assistance to states to address priority health issues. Activities will focus on increasing the use of evidence-based strategies and best practices by states to address high burden health challenges. Through facilitated learning opportunities, the awardee will orient state decision makers to CDC's Winnable Battle Initiative, educate them about the burden of significant health challenges in their states and evidence-based interventions, and provide technical assistance to state decision makers in developing and implementing action plans to address them.

2. Who is eligible for funding through SO15-1501?

There is full and open competition for SO15-1501.

Applicants should demonstrate sufficient connection to state executive branch and/or legislative branch members across the United States in order to accomplish the goal of working with a geographically diverse set of states from all regions of the U.S. Further, the applicant must be well versed both in public health issues such as CDC Winnable Battles and in how states approach and implement policies and practices that impact public health. Refer to additional response (#11) below regarding organizational capacity expectations.

3. What happens if I am not able to submit my application by the deadline?

In accordance with the Funding Opportunity Announcement, SO15-1501: Educating State-level Stakeholders on Strategies to Address Winnable Battles in Public Health, all documents must be submitted through grants.gov by the established deadline of August 6th, 2015 at 11:59pm ET. Your organization's application and supporting documents will not be entered into the review process if your submission is not received by the deadline, as published in the FOA.

The FOA encourages all applicants to review files carefully and submit early to alleviate or identify any problems. We CDC has the responsibility of maintaining integrity in the application process and ensuring applicants are treated in a fair and equitable manner.

4. What happens if there are any modifications to the content or submission dates for the Funding Opportunity Announcement?

Any changes or modifications to the initial Funding Opportunity Announcement will be posted on www.grants.gov. Please visit the website regularly for any updates.

5. How many organizations will be funded through SO15-1501?

CDC plans to make one award through this announcement.

6. Is cost sharing or matching required?

Cost sharing or matching funds are not required for this program. Although there is no statutory match requirement for this FOA, leveraging other resources and related ongoing efforts to promote sustainability is strongly encouraged.

7. How will applications be reviewed?

As indicated beginning at the bottom of page 19 of the FOA, all eligible applications will be initially reviewed for completeness by CDC's Procurement and Grants Office (PGO) staff. In addition, eligible applicants will be jointly reviewed for responsiveness by CDC's Program Performance and Evaluation Office and PGO. Incomplete applications and applications that are non-responsive to the eligibility criteria will not advance to the next phase of the review. Applicants will be notified that the application did not meet eligibility and/or published submission requirements. An objective review panel will evaluate complete and responsive applications according to the criteria identified in the FOA:

- A. Approach
- B. Evaluation and Performance Measurement
- C. Applicant's Organizational Capacity to Implement the Approach.

Applicants will be funded in order by rank as determined by the panel. CDC will notify applicants that are approved but unfunded and unapproved applicants during the same period when funded applicants are notified. Letters are sent to applicants by PGO. Approved but unfunded applications remain valid for one year and may be funded if additional funds become available.

8. What is the anticipated project period for the SO15-1501

The project period for SO15-1501 is August 28, 2015--August 27, 2020.
The budget period is August 28th – August 27st for each year funding is received.

9. What is the anticipated start date for SO15-1501?

August 28, 2015

10. How much funding will be awarded through SO15-1501?

- Approximately \$200,000/per year over five years
- Approximately \$1,000,000 over the total project period (August 28, 2015--August 27, 2020)

11. What are the organizational capacity expectations for applicants?

Please refer to page 9 of the FOA which provides additional detail regarding organizational capacity expectations.

- Awardee should have an organizational connection to and strong working relationships with state decision makers and policy makers across the United States. Applicant must show evidence of such connection and working relationships. Its constituency should include members from within the state legislative or executive (health department) branches of government. If applicant is an organization whose constituency is within one branch, applicant

must describe how it will partner with organizations with constituencies in the relevant other branch.

- Awardee should have health policy and communications expertise across Winnable Battle focus areas, including Tobacco, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity, Food Safety, Healthcare Associated Infections, Motor Vehicles Injury, Teen Pregnancy and HIV.
- Awardee should have previous experience implementing projects that included activities similar to those proposed in this FOA.
- Awardee should have the infrastructure and experience in widely disseminating information to their memberships and beyond through a variety of communications channels, and the capacity to plan and execute small and larger virtual and in-person meetings and learning opportunities.
- Applicant should demonstrate the ability to facilitate discussions and plans accommodating a variety of interests

Please note that the awardee must perform a substantial role in carrying out project objectives and not merely serve as a conduit for an award to another party who is ineligible.

12. Does a final evaluation plan have to be submitted with the application?

An initial overall evaluation and performance measurement plan must be submitted as part of the application. CDC will provide feedback and technical assistance to the awardee to finalize the plan post award. The final plan is due 6 months into the award as indicated on page 22 of the FOA.

13. What are the reporting requirements for the FOA?

Please refer to page 22 of the FOA for information about required reporting. The final awardee evaluation and performance measurement plan is due 6 months into the award. And the annual performance report (APR) is due 120 days before the end of the budget period, and this serves as the yearly continuation application. Federal Financial Reports Forms are due 90 days after the end of the calendar quarter in which the budget period ends. Federal Performance and Financial Reports are due 90 days after end of project period.

Additionally, please note that the CDC program will determine if optional reporting on performance measure data will be requested.

14. Who should I contact if I have questions about the application process or need assistance obtaining required application materials for the FOA?

There are detailed instructions about the application process in the FOA starting on page 12. If you have questions about how to access the application package or other materials, please contact the CDC Procurement and Grants office at 770-488-2700 or by email at PGOTIM@cdc.gov.

15. Can an organization apply for funding through this FOA as a primary applicant and also be listed as a potential sub-grantee on another application for this FOA?

Yes, an organization can be a primary applicant for funding through this FOA and also be listed as a potential sub-grantee on another application.

16. Would it be acceptable to CDC for an applicant to focus proposed work on a subset on the Winnable Battles? For example, working on one Winnable Battle per year with states or focusing on the two Winnable Battles that we feel states want to work on the most.

Applicants may focus their proposal in any way that they believe meets the goals and strategies outlined of the FOA. Applications will be reviewed using the criteria set forth in the FOA.

17. If an applicant is proposing a sub-contract arrangement what information is required with the application?

Applicants should provide information, if available at the time of submitting the application, with the 6 required elements for any contract as outlined in CDC's Budget Preparation Guidelines. If the information is not available at the time of completing the application, the grantee will be required to submit the required information to PGO and await approval prior to enactment of the contract. For guidance on completing a detailed budget, see Budget Preparation Guidelines at <http://www.cdc.gov/grants/interestedinapplying/applicationresources.html> .