

# Overview of CDC-RFA-OT16-1601: Strengthening the Public Health System in the US-Affiliated Pacific Islands

## Background

On February 16, 2016, CDC's Center for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support (CSTLTS) issued a five-year funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for a regional, nonprofit organization to strengthen the quality, performance, and sustainability of the US-Affiliated Pacific Islands' (USAPI) governmental and nongovernmental components of the public health system through the provision of capacity-building assistance (CBA). The goal of this FOA is to optimize the quality and performance of public health business services, the public health workforce, public health data and information systems, public health practice and services, public health partnerships, laws and policies, and public health resources.

## Strategies and Activities

The strategies and related activities originate from recommendations for CBA and are based on CSTLTS's priorities, program experience, and evidence-based findings from the scientific literature and national reports published by federal councils and national public health organizations, such as the US Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2020, Institute of Medicine, the National Prevention Strategy, and the World Health Organization. The CBA strategies are as follows:

- Public health leadership to build leadership knowledge, skills, and competencies to improve governance, decision making, and accountability
- Public health system and infrastructure to strengthen system and agency needs and determine steps to improve operational capacity
- Public health workforce segments to enable improvement of competencies and workforce attrition and retention
- Public health laws and policies to strengthen responses to current challenges and the evolving physical, social, and built environments that contribute to new challenges
- Evidence-based public health practices and services to strengthen the delivery of essential public health services in a comprehensive manner
- Public health monitoring and surveillance systems to increase the capacity to support integration, maintenance, and interpretation of data and information systems across the public health system.

## Outcomes

This CBA initiative will demonstrate measurable progress of the USAPI public health system toward three or more of the following outcomes:

- Strengthened leadership, governance, and accountability
  - Enhanced knowledge, skills, and awareness of leaders to support current public health priorities
  - Increased capacity of leadership to execute strategic plans, policy formulation, and program implementation
  - Improved multi-sectoral leadership action to strategically address population health needs



- Enhanced public health systems and infrastructure
  - Increased implementation of processes that build operational efficiency and effectiveness
  - Increased use of performance management systems to monitor and evaluate operational processes
  - Improved operational efficiency and effectiveness
- Increased public health workforce capacity
  - Increased knowledge, skills, and competencies among public health workers
  - Strengthened workforce qualifications, performance, and service delivery
  - Improved capacity to prepare for and respond to population health needs
- Improved public health laws and policies
  - Increased awareness of how laws and policies impact the public's health
  - Increased practical, legal- and policy-centered tools and resources for public health practitioners in health departments
  - Increased implementation of evidence-based public health laws and policies by public health practitioners in health departments
- Increased delivery of evidence-based public health practices and services
  - Increased capacity to deliver the 10 essential public health services
  - Enhanced capacity to integrate and coordinate effective prevention strategies and actions across multiple settings to effectively address disease prevention and control
  - Increased capacity to effectively partner with the healthcare sector to deliver public health services
- Enhanced monitoring and surveillance systems capacity
  - Increased capacity to develop national health data systems and registries
  - Improved collection, maintenance, interpretation, and dissemination of population health data
  - Improved capacity to identify population health needs through data-driven decision making

## **Funding**

- Budget Period Length: 12 months (July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018)
- Project Period Length: 5 years (July 1, 2016–June 30, 2021)

## **For More Information**

Contact Lorine Spencer at [LSpencer@cdc.gov](mailto:LSpencer@cdc.gov) for more information about this initiative.