



.June 14, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

I am happy to announce the publication of the new funding opportunity announcement (FOA), *Improving Sexually Transmitted Disease Programs through Assessment, Assurance, Policy Development, and Prevention Strategies (STD AAPPS)*. This FOA (PS14-1402) was posted today on Grants.gov.

The existing STD prevention cooperative agreement funding 50 state, 7 city and 2 territorial health departments expires on December 31, 2013. The STD AAPPS FOA renews CDC's focus on core public health functions and offers greater flexibility to programs to direct resources to areas of greatest need based on the local epidemiology and health care environment. Resources can also be used to support workforce development activities to create more efficient and effective STD prevention programs that can better respond to changing priorities and emerging threats, such as antibiotic resistant gonorrhea.

Another essential change in this FOA is implementation of a funding formula covering the three notifiable STDs – gonorrhea, syphilis, and chlamydia. In developing the formula, we looked at multiple approaches and considered input from grantees and other partners. The new funding allocation balances the need to direct resources to populations with the greatest burden of infections with the need to maintain efficient and effective infrastructure. The funding is equally divided to addressing each of these needs.

The new FOA is divided into two parts, A and B. Part A, STD AAPPS, emphasizes the core public health functions of assessment, assurance, and policy development and focuses on STD prevention strategies for implementing high impact, cost-effective, and sustainable STD prevention services. Programmatic capabilities and prevention interventions are identified within each of the public health functions.

Part B of the FOA, or "GISP," is the Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project. This project is a collaborative project involving CDC, regional GISP laboratories, and local or state STD programs and their affiliated STD clinic(s) and local public health laboratories, which collects and analyzes gonorrhea strains circulating in the population. GISP is critically important given the current state of increasing signs of antibiotic resistance in gonorrhea, in particular because the U.S. gonorrhea control strategy relies on effective antibiotic therapy.

Although the public health foundation of STD AAPPS is similar to the expiring cooperative agreement, there are some notable changes:

- We have eliminated separate program components for the infertility prevention project (IPP) and syphilis elimination, thereby providing greater flexibility to grantees to direct resources to support STD prevention reflecting their local situation.
- The STD AAPPS FOA provides an opportunity to develop work plans, performance

measures and evaluation activities that are focused on program efficiency, cost-effectiveness and scalable interventions with high health impact.

- We have included support for STD programs to take advantage of opportunities created by our changing healthcare environment.
- STD AAPPS supports modernization of the STD public health work force to enhance and support program capacity.

And, similar to the expiring cooperative agreement, grantees are permitted to spend at least 13.5% of their award supporting safety net STD clinical preventive services for populations who may not immediately (or ever) gain access to health insurance or care as a result of ACA. States can continue to provide support through section 318 to family planning clinics, as they have done in the current 5- year funding to maintain their 340B eligibility.

We want to communicate as clearly as possible regarding these changes, therefore, we have scheduled a series of webinars regarding the FOA.

- STD AAPPS Orientation: Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM EST

I will host a webinar to provide general information to eligible applicants of the STD AAPPS FOA. Staff from CDC's Procurement and Grants Office will also provide information about the application process.

Registration is required for this webinar. [Register here for the STD AAPPS Orientation Webinar](#). The webinar will be recorded and posted on the [STD AAPPS FOA Webinar page](#) by Monday, June 24, 2013

- STD AAPPS Q&A: Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM EST

I will also host a webinar to answer applicant's questions about the STD AAPPS FOA. If you have questions about STD AAPPS, please send them to [stdaappsfoa@cdc.gov](mailto:stdaappsfoa@cdc.gov) by June 24, 2013. Frequently-asked questions received via the mailbox will be addressed during the webinar.

Registration is required for this webinar. [Register here for the STD AAPPS Q&A Webinar](#). This webinar will be recorded and posted on the [STD AAPPS FOA Webinar page](#) by Wednesday, July 3, 2013.

Additional webinars to address planning, program improvement, and evaluation will be scheduled and posted on the STD AAPPS Webinar page as dates become available

Please visit [www.cdc.gov/std/foa/aapps/](http://www.cdc.gov/std/foa/aapps/) for additional information, including FAQs and a fact sheet.

Thank you,

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