

ethnic minority populations for appropriate representation.

(b) The proposed justification when representation is limited or absent.

(c) A statement as to whether the design of the study is adequate to measure differences when warranted.

(d) A statement as to whether the plans for recruitment and outreach for study participants include the process of establishing partnerships with community(ies) and recognition of mutual benefits.

b. Evaluation criteria for Category 2 (States with ongoing birth defects surveillance systems):

(1) Ability to improve/expand population-based birth defects surveillance.

(2) Methods of case ascertainment.

(3) Timeliness of case ascertainment.

(4) Level of coverage of the population.

(5) Specific birth defects ascertained.

(6) Analyzing and reporting surveillance data to appropriate State, local, and Federal health officials.

(7) Evaluating the surveillance methodology and quality of the surveillance data.

(8) The degree to which the applicant has met the CDC Policy requirements regarding the inclusion of women, ethnic, and racial groups in the proposed research. This includes:

(a) The proposed plan for the inclusion of both sexes and racial and ethnic minority populations for appropriate representation.

(b) The proposed justification when representation is limited or absent.

(c) A statement as to whether the design of the study is adequate to measure differences when warranted.

(d) A statement as to whether the plans for recruitment and outreach for study participants include the process of establishing partnerships with community(ies) and recognition of mutual benefits.

4. Organizational and program personnel capability (15 points):

a. The extent to which the applicant has the experience, skills, and ability to develop and improve birth defects surveillance and use surveillance data to develop prevention programs and improve access to health services or early intervention programs.

b. The adequacy of the present staff and/or the capability to assemble competent staff to either implement or improve upon a birth defects surveillance system and develop programs for prevention or improving access to health services and early intervention programs. If it is necessary to hire staff to conduct program activities, provide plans for identifying

and hiring qualified applicants on a timely basis. Also, provide plans for how work on program activities will be conducted prior to hiring necessary staff.

c. To the extent possible, the applicant shall identify all current and potential personnel who will work on this cooperative agreement including qualifications and specific experience as it relates to the requirements set forth in this announcement.

5. Applicant's understanding of the public health impact of birth defects (5 points):

The extent to which the applicant has a clear, concise understanding of the requirements, objectives, and purpose of the cooperative agreement. The extent to which the application reflects an understanding of the public health impact of birth defects in their State and the purpose and complexities of birth defects surveillance as it relates to their State.

6. Human Subjects Review (not scored):

Does the application adequately address the requirements of title 45 CFR part 46 for the protection of human subjects? (Not scored; however, an application can be disapproved if the research risks are sufficiently serious and protection against risks are so inadequate as to make the entire application unacceptable.)

7. Budget justification and adequacy of facilities (not scored):

The budget will be evaluated for the extent to which it is reasonable, clearly justified, and consistent with the intended use of the cooperative agreement funds. The applicant shall describe and indicate the availability of facilities and equipment necessary to carry out this project.

I. Other Requirements

Technical Reporting Requirements

Provide CDC with original plus two copies of:

1. Interim progress report, no less than 90 days before the end of the budget period. The interim progress report will serve as your non-competing continuation application and must include the following elements:

a. Current Budget Period Activities Objectives.

b. Current Budget Period Financial Progress.

c. New Budget Period Proposed Activity Objectives.

d. Detailed Line-Item Budget and Justification.

e. Additional Requested Information.

2. Financial status report, no more than 90 days after the end of the budget period.

3. Final financial and performance reports, no more than 90 days after the end of the project period.

Send all reports to the Grants Management Specialist identified in the "Where to Obtain Additional Information" section of this announcement.

The following additional requirements are applicable to this program. For a complete description of each, see Attachment II of the program announcement as posted on the CDC website.

AR-1 Human Subjects Requirements

AR-2 Requirements for Inclusion of Women and Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Research

AR-7 Executive Order 12372 Review

AR-9 Paperwork Reduction Act Requirements

AR-10 Smoke-Free Workplace Requirements

AR-11 Healthy People 2010

AR-12 Lobbying Restrictions

J. Where To Obtain Additional Information

This and other CDC announcements, the necessary applications, and associated forms can be found on the CDC website, Internet address <http://www.cdc.gov>. Click on "Funding" then "Grants and Cooperative Agreements."

For general questions about this announcement, contact: Technical Information Management, CDC Procurement and Grants Office, 2920 Brandywine Rd., Room 3000, Atlanta, GA 30341-4146. Telephone: 770-488-2700.

For business management and budget assistance, contact: Sheryl L. Heard, Grants Management Specialist, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Announcement 03019, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341-4146. Telephone: (770) 488-2723. E-mail address: slh3@cdc.gov.

For business management and budget assistance in the territories, contact: Charlotte Flitcraft, Grants Management Officer, CDC Procurement and Grants Office, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341-4146. Telephone: (770) 488-2632. E-mail address: caf5@cdc.gov.

For program technical assistance, contact: Larry D. Edmonds, Project Officer, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 4770 Buford Highway, NE., Atlanta, GA 30341-3724. Telephone: (770) 488-7171. E-mail address: lded2@cdc.gov.