

vaccine efficacy study or a case-control study of risk factors for infection that could be implemented in conjunction with surveillance.

If additional funding is identified, and at the discretion of CDC, epidemiological studies of risk factors or vaccine efficacy could be conducted as part of the scope of this project.

2. CDC Activities

CDC staff will collaborate in the following activities:

a. Collaborate in the development of surveillance strategies including consultation with staff experts on the clinical and laboratory diagnosis of pertussis.

b. Perform confirmatory laboratory testing for a sample of positive or negative laboratory tests.

c. Support registry evaluation and enhancement through consultation with staff experts on enhanced registry systems including immunizations registry computer programming experts.

d. Collaborate in the development and implementation of research activities under this agreement.

e. CDC staff experts on pertussis will provide educational training on the epidemiology, diagnosis, and treatment of pertussis as well as the limitations of the current national passive surveillance system.

F. Content

The Program Announcement title and number must appear in the applications. Use the information in the Program Requirements, Other Requirements, and Evaluation Criteria sections to develop the application content. Applications will be evaluated on the criteria listed, so it is important to address them when describing the program plan. The narrative should be no more than 20 single-spaced pages and be printed on one side, with one-inch margins and a 12-point unredacted font.

The narrative should consist of, at a minimum, a Plan, Objectives, Methods, Evaluation, and Budget. The plan should address activities to be conducted over the entire five-year project period.

G. Submission and Deadline

Application Forms

Submit the signed original and two copies of PHS 398 (OMB Number 0925-0001). Adhere to the Errata Instruction Sheet (posted on the CDC web site) for PHS 398. Forms are available at the following Internet address: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/forminfo.htm>.

If you do not have access to the Internet, or if you have difficulty

accessing the forms on-line, you may contact the CDC Procurement and Grants Office Technical Information Management Section (PGO-TIM) at: 770-488-2700. Application forms can be mailed to you.

Submission Date, Time, and Address

The application must be received by 4 p.m. Eastern Time June 5, 2003. Submit the application to: Technical Information Management-PA# 03101, CDC Procurement and Grants Office, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341-4146.

Applications may not be submitted electronically.

CDC Acknowledgement of Application Receipt

A postcard will be mailed by PGO-TIM, notifying you that CDC has received your application.

Deadline

Letters of intent and applications shall be considered as meeting the deadline if they are received before 4 p.m. Eastern Time on the deadline date. Any applicant who sends their application by the United States Postal Service or commercial delivery services must ensure that the carrier will be able to guarantee delivery of the application by the closing date and time. If an application is received after closing due to (1) carrier error, when the carrier accepted the package with a guarantee for delivery by the closing date and time, or (2) significant weather delays or natural disasters, CDC will upon receipt of proper documentation, consider the application as having been received by the deadline.

Any application that does not meet the above criteria will not be eligible for competition, and will be discarded. The applicant will be notified of their failure to meet the submission requirements.

H. Evaluation Criteria

Applicants are required to provide measures of effectiveness that will demonstrate the accomplishment of the various identified objectives of the cooperative agreement. Measures of effectiveness must relate to the performance goals stated in section "B. Purpose" of this announcement. Measures must be objective and quantitative and must measure the intended outcome. These measures of effectiveness shall be submitted with the application and shall be an element of evaluation.

Applications will be evaluated against the following criteria by a peer review group appointed by CDC:

1. Technical Approach to Implementing Surveillance (25 points)

The extent to which applicant provides a clear description of how the tasks described in the recipient activities would be accomplished. Specifically: (a) Extent to which applicant identifies all potential reporting sites in the surveillance area and presents strategies to enlist broad participation; (b) extent to which applicant provides a quality strategy to assure timely reporting of suspected cases; and (c) extent to which applicant proposes a feasible plan to make laboratory testing services widely available and to assure their widespread use.

2. Previous Experience (20 points)

The extent to which applicant provides information on the previous experience of the organization and project personnel that reflects an ability to complete the tasks listed in the recipient activities. Specifically, experience in disease surveillance; experience working with public and private medical care providers and hospitals in the surveillance area; and experience conducting culture, PCR, and serological laboratory tests. If applicant is not a State or local health department, experience working with the health department to conduct public health surveillance or other activities.

3. Quality of Diagnostic Laboratory Testing (15 points)

The extent to which applicant provides information on the quality of culture, PCR and serological methods that would be used for pertussis diagnosis. If such testing is not done currently, extent to which applicant can document that the proposed method is sensitive and specific for pertussis infection.

4. Quality of Immunization Registry and of the Plan to Enhance It (15 points)

Extent to which applicant documents presence of a functional immunization registry and the completeness of that registry. Quality of plans to enhance participation, completeness, and data accuracy.

5. Personnel Qualifications and Management Plan (15 points)

The extent to which applicant describes a staffing plan that demonstrates their understanding of the labor requirements to complete this scope of work and a management plan that describes their approach to managing this work, including subcontract management, if applicable. Includes identifying key staff, their roles