

This program will support funding for applicants to develop a new surveillance system for ASDs and other DDs, beginning with the ASDs and Mental Retardation (MR) in eight year-old children, in collaboration with a network of CDC-funded ASD/DD surveillance projects known as the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network.

Measurable outcomes of the program will be in alignment with the following performance goals for the National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD): To improve the data on the prevalence of birth defects and developmental disabilities and find causes and risk factors of birth defects and developmental disabilities in order to develop prevention strategies.

For additional information applicable to this announcement, *see* Attachment I. All attachments referenced in this announcement are posted with the announcement on the CDC Web site.

### C. Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by Health departments of States, or their bona fide agents, including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and federally recognized Indian tribal governments.

Competition is limited to State Health Departments, or their bona fide agents, because they maintain public health responsibility for these health conditions, and their record systems and expertise are essential to continued program operation. If the applicant is not the State Health Agency, the applicant must provide a letter from the appropriate State Health Agency designating the applicant as a bona fide agent to conduct ASD and DD surveillance. If an applicant is acting as an agent for their Health Department, the Health Department will be expected to assign a liaison with no less than ten percent time dedicated to participate in major activities of the program. Applicants are expected to provide some in-kind support for these activities.

Only one application per state will be accepted. If multiple states, territories or regions are represented, a lead applicant must be specified. Information indicating the lead applicant and the letter granting authority from the Health Department for this application should be placed directly behind the cover letter of the application. Applicants that

fail to submit the evidence requested above will be considered non-responsive and returned without review.

Applicants from States that currently have ASD and other DD surveillance programs funded by CDC are ineligible. These States include: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Florida, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, and West Virginia.

To be eligible, applicants must document a study population of at least 30,000 live births per year within a State, a contiguous area (geographically linked) of a State, or a contiguous area comprised of a combination of States. Applicants who are unable to document the minimum study population size based on live birth data from their State Health Department or proxy data from the United States Census Bureau (based on 2000 census data or other appropriate data source) will be determined ineligible.

**Note:** Title 2 of the United States Code, section 1611 states that an organization described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to receive Federal funds constituting an award, grant, or loan.

### D. Funding

#### *Availability of Funds*

Approximately \$800,000 may be available in FY 2003 to fund approximately four awards. It is expected that the average award will be \$200,000, ranging from \$150,000 to \$250,000. The award is expected to begin on September 1, 2003, and will be made for a 12-month budget period within a project period of up to three years. Funding estimates may change.

Continuation awards within an approved project period will be dependent upon demonstration of reasonable progress towards establishing ongoing, population-based surveillance for ASDs and other DDs as evidenced by required reports and the availability of funds.

#### *Use of Funds*

Funds awarded should be used solely for the implementation of the approved project for ASD and DD surveillance.

#### *Recipient Financial Participation*

Although matching funds are not a requirement under this announcement, applicants are encouraged to seek additional funds to support project activities. Applicants should document the source and amount of financial support, including in-kind

contributions. Such letters of financial commitment as well as additional correspondence citing specific areas of project collaborations should be included in the application Appendix.

#### *Funding Preferences*

During the selection process CDC will make every effort to ensure a balanced geographic distribution with currently funded grantees.

### E. Program Requirements

In conducting activities to achieve the purpose of this program, the recipient will be responsible for the activities listed in 1. Recipient Activities, and CDC will be responsible for the activities listed in 2. CDC Activities. Please see Attachment I for additional guidance information.

#### 1. Recipient Activities:

a. Develop a collaborative, population-based epidemiologic surveillance system for ASDs including Autistic Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder—Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) and Asperger's Disorder and other developmental disabilities (e.g., MR, cerebral palsy, hearing loss, vision impairment, and/or epilepsy) with a minimum inclusion of MR, in eight year old children.

b. Develop collaborative relationships with appropriate professionals and organizations and existing funded surveillance partners to establish a multiple-source methodology for case ascertainment that is compatible with current collaborative CDC methodology.

c. Determine data linkages that may be needed to supplement the ASD/DD surveillance system.

d. Develop a plan to identify and access potential sources for ASD/DD surveillance.

e. Identify a surveillance project team capable of conducting ASD and DD surveillance. If acting as a bona fide agent of a health department, a department employee with no less than 10 percent of his/her time dedicated to participate in major activities of the program must be assigned to the project.

f. Develop a plan for quality assurance procedures for abstraction and case review and to ensure that study protocols are followed.

g. Develop an evaluation plan for estimating the validity and completeness of the surveillance system.

h. Develop a plan to increase community and public health awareness of ASDs/DDs to facilitate early and accurate identification of children and to improve the consistent identification