

B. Purpose

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2003 funds for a cooperative agreement program to conduct research on the impact of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) exposure on human health in Anniston, Alabama. This program addresses the "Healthy People 2010" focus area of Environmental Health.

The purpose of this program is to: (1) Collect baseline information and serum PCBs from a sample of Anniston residents; (2) study the relationship between exposure to PCBs and adverse health effects, such as cancer, neurobehavioral disorders, birth defects, and immune function; and (3) inform and educate residents about PCB exposure in their community.

Measurable outcomes of the program will be in alignment with one or more of the following performance goals for the ATSDR: (1) develop and provide reliable and understandable information for people in affected communities and tribes, and for stakeholders, and (2) ascertain the relationship between exposure to toxic substances and disease.

C. Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by:

- Health departments of States or their *bona fide* agents, including the District of Columbia, 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, and the Republic of Palau.
- Federally recognized Indian tribal governments.
- State-based institutions (this includes universities, colleges, and research institutions).

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.

Special Requirements

Minimal Applicant Requirements

1. A documented link between the Anniston community and the applicant.
2. Experience with community outreach and health education to provide support and information.
3. The investigators should be prepared to work collaboratively with ATSDR and community leaders to achieve the goals of this solicitation.

4. The investigators should be prepared to meet on a periodic basis with community representatives.

D. Funding

Availability of Funds

Approximately \$1,500,000 is available in FY 2003 to fund up to two awards. It is expected that the average award will be \$750,000, ranging from \$600,000 to \$1,500,000. It is expected that the awards will begin on or about August 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 made on the basis of satisfactory progress as evidenced by required reports and the availability of funds.

Use of Funds

Funds may be expended for reasonable program purposes, such as, personnel, travel, supplies and services. Funds for contractual services may be requested; however, the primary recipient of ATSDR funds must perform a substantive role in carrying out project activities and not merely serve as a conduit for an award to another party or provide funds to an ineligible party. Equipment may be purchased with these funds; however, the equipment proposed should be appropriate and reasonable for the research activity to be conducted. Equipment may be acquired only when authorized and the application should provide a justification of the need to acquire equipment, the description, and the cost of purchase versus lease. To the greatest extent practicable, equipment and products purchased with ATSDR funds should be American made. ATSDR retains the right to request the return, at the completion of the project period, of all equipment in operable condition purchased with grant funds.

Recipient Financial Participation

Matching funds are not required for this program.

Funding Preferences

Preference will be given to the following: applicants who are located in the southeastern region of the United States, applicants who have support from the Anniston community as evidenced by letters of support, applicants who demonstrate collaborative effort with other institutions, or projects which avoid a duplication of study objectives.

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 ATSDR will be responsible for the activities listed in 2. ATSDR Activities.

1. Recipient Activities

a. Develop a study proposal that examines the relationship between exposure to PCBs and an adverse health effect, such as cancer, neurobehavioral disorders, birth defects, and/or immune function. Protocol (study design and end point(s) under investigation) and data collection instruments will be developed by applicant, in consultation with ATSDR, and approved prior to project implementation. A recommended time line is available in Attachment IV. All attachments referenced in this announcement are posted with the announcement on the CDC Web site.

b. Meet in Anniston, Alabama, at least twice in the first year with ATSDR and Environmental Protection Agency Region IV staff to review available exposure data to help define the exposed population(s).

c. At the conclusion of the study, share all data collected through these activities with ATSDR. These data may be used by ATSDR to further characterize potential exposure pathways.

d. Through letters of support, provide evidence of on-going collaborative efforts with community representatives, local elected officials, state and local health departments, etc., to enhance communication and information exchange with the Anniston community (Attachment V).

e. Establish a mechanism to work with community leaders in Anniston, Alabama, on a periodic basis throughout the study period to gather input on study design issues, and receive feedback regarding outreach, participation, and education.

f. Meet annually with ATSDR and other awardee(s) in Atlanta, Georgia, to coordinate planned efforts and review progress.

g. Disseminate research results to community members, and publish in written format for distribution.

2. ATSDR Activities

a. Provide epidemiologic guidance and administrative support to achieve program goals.

b. In collaboration with the recipient, develop a research protocol for Institutional Review Board (IRB) review by all cooperating institutions