

with funds for years two and three subject to availability of funds and satisfactory progress of the project. The actual number and dollar amount of the awards will depend on the number of applications received as well as the number of acceptable applications that the OSG determines to fund.

Matching Requirements

The applicant is not required to match or share project costs, if an award is made.

Period of Support

The start date for the cooperative agreement will be September 30, 2003 or sooner, depending on the date of issuance of the notice of award. Support may be requested for a project period not to exceed three years. Awardees will be eligible for awards up to \$50,000 total cost. Noncompeting continuation awards of up to \$50,000 will be made in fiscal years 2004 and 2005, subject to satisfactory performance and the availability of funds.

Eligible Applicants

The MRC CA program applicant must be a public or private nonprofit, community-based organization. Applicants may be an entity of the local government, a local nonprofit, or a non-government organization. If a local Citizen Corps Council (CCC) meets any of these criteria, the CCC can be the applicant. Acceptable proof of nonprofit status includes:

- A reference to the applicant organization's listing in the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) most recent list of tax-exempt organizations in the IRS Code;
- A copy of a currently valid IRS tax exemption certificate;
- A statement from a State taxing body, State attorney general, or other appropriate State official certifying that the applicant organization has a nonprofit status and that none of the net earnings accrue to any private shareholders or individuals;
- A certified copy of the organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes non-profit status; or
- Any of the items above for a State or national parent organization and a statement signed by the parent organization that the applicant organization is a local non-profit affiliate.

Additionally, faith-based organizations that meet the definition of a private, nonprofit, community-based organization are eligible to apply under this announcement. Tribes, tribal organizations, and local affiliates of

national, state-wide, or regional organizations that meet the definition of a private nonprofit, community-based organization are eligible to apply.

To ensure wide geographic distribution of local MRC units, applications will be accepted from organizations in all of the American States and Territories.

In general, only one CA will be awarded per community. If more than one application with a qualifying score is received from the same community, the OSG will contact local officials to make a determination of which application should be given priority. It is recognized, however, that a large metropolitan area may warrant the establishment of more than one MRC unit and, therefore, could receive more than one MRC CA. For communities where more than one group/organization is planning/developing a local citizen volunteer MRC unit, it is recommended that these groups work together to submit one application. For large metropolitan areas, applications should be coordinated. In such instances, however, the applicant(s) must make a convincing case that more than one MRC unit and more than one CA is essential, and that the applicant organizations have not only coordinated their planning, but also have the imprimatur of the local health and emergency response authorities.

Program Goals

The goals of the MRC demonstration project CA are to:

1. Demonstrate whether medical response capacity in communities can be strengthened through the establishment of MRC units consisting of citizen volunteers who represent a broad range of medical/health professions;
2. Demonstrate whether additional capacity can be created at the community level to deal with emergency situations which have significant consequences for the health of the population;
3. Demonstrate whether the MRC does enable current and/or retired health professionals and related support personnel in communities to obtain additional training needed to work effectively and safely during emergency situations;
4. Demonstrate whether the MRC approach does provide an organizational framework, with a command and control system, within which appropriately trained and credentialed citizen volunteers can put their skills in health and medicine to use effectively (including prearranged

assignments) when there is an emergency;

5. Demonstrate whether the MRC approach facilitates coordination of local citizen volunteer services in health/medicine with other response programs of the community/county/state during an emergency;

6. Demonstrate whether the MRC approach does provide cadres of health professionals, from within their home communities, who contribute to the resolution of public health problems and needs throughout the year; and

7. Demonstrate whether the MRC approach is sustainable beyond the CA funding period.

Project Requirements

MRC units should: (1) Be comprised of citizen volunteers from within the community, including the immediate surrounding area; (2) have an organizational framework with a command and control system and have operational policies and procedures; (3) have a plan of action that is consistent with the risks and vulnerabilities of the community; (4) be fully coordinated and appropriately integrated into the existing emergency planning and response programs of the community; (5) develop strategies for activation of the local MRC unit(s), training of MRC unit members to achieve needed competency standards, building working relationships/partnerships within the community, communications and logistics during emergencies, and practicing/drilling before emergencies occur; (6) develop plans for additional functions, beyond emergency response, to promote public health in the community; and (7) have a plan for sustaining the MRC unit after federal funding stops.

Application Requirements

In addition to the eligibility criteria cited above and use of the form PHS 5161-1 (revised July 2000), successful candidates will address the following criteria in the narrative of their applications and provide the noted documentation:

- Documentation that the applicant is a unit of local government or community-based, nonprofit organization;
- Established leadership structure for the MRC unit;
- Draft action plan, including initial measurable milestones, for establishment of a citizen volunteer MRC unit, including goals, objectives, and time lines;
- Documentation of the existence of a planning body for the MRC, including the name of the chair or lead