

A. Authority and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number

This program is authorized under section 104(i)(1)(E), (6), (7), (14) and (15) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 9604 (i)(1)(e), (6), (7), (14) and (15)). The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number is 93.161.

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 site-specific health activities due to exposure to tremolite asbestos in vermiculite ore. This program addresses the "Healthy People 2010" focus area of Environmental Health. The purpose of the program is to conduct site-specific health activities related to human exposure to contaminated vermiculite ore at sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as receiving and/or processing ore from the mine in Libby, Montana.

Measurable outcomes of the program will be in alignment with the following performance goals for ATSDR:

1. Evaluate human health risks from toxic sites and take action in a timely and responsive public health manner.
2. Ascertain the relationship between exposure to toxic substances and disease.

C. Eligible Applicants

Assistance will be provided only to the health departments of States or their bona fide agents or instrumentalities. State organizations, including State universities, must establish that they meet their respective State legislature's definition of a State entity or political subdivision to be considered an eligible applicant.

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 \$250,000 is available in FY 2003 to fund approximately one to four awards. It is expected that the awards will range from \$10,000 to \$250,000 (\$10,000 per site evaluated for the conduct of health statistics reviews; \$100,000 for mesothelioma surveillance; and a maximum of \$250,000 for

epidemiologic investigations.) It is expected that the awards will begin on or about 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 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 grantee, as the direct and primary recipient of ATSDR grant 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. Funds may not be used to purchase equipment.

Recipient Financial Participation

Matching funds are not required for this program.

Funding Preference

For the mesothelioma surveillance, preference will be given to states with at least 100 cases of mesothelioma per year and at least eight sites that received the asbestos contaminated ore.

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. Health Statistics Reviews

Analyze existing health outcome data of select asbestos-related diseases. Mortality data will be the most readily available data for asbestos-related diseases such as mesothelioma, lung cancer, and asbestosis, although cancer registry data should be utilized where available. Using disease rates by site, determine if there is any excess in disease that would require additional follow-up in years two and three.

b. Epidemiologic Investigations

After demonstrating an increase of asbestos related disease at a specific site (e.g. through a health statistics review), develop a protocol, conduct the investigation and prepare a final report of the study. This protocol and report will undergo scientific peer review as required by ATSDR.

c. Mesothelioma Surveillance

Determine if a particular site which received Libby ore is contributing to the

mesothelioma burden in the state. (Please see Attachment 1 of this announcement as posted on the CDC Web site for information about vermiculite ore from Libby, Montana). Identify cases of mesothelioma in the State and interview the cases and next-of-kin. Provide information to ATSDR to combine with other State information. Prepare a final report of the project. This report will undergo scientific peer review as required by ATSDR.

d. Provide proof, by citing a State code or regulation or other State pronouncement under authority of law, that medical information obtained pursuant to the agreement will be protected from disclosure when the consent of the individual to release identifying information is not obtained.

e. If a demonstrated excess of disease is found, develop a mechanism for ongoing interaction with, and education of the affected community.

2. ATSDR Activities

a. Health Statistics Review

(1) Provide a standard protocol to use to analyze existing health outcome data of select asbestos-related diseases.

(2) Provide scientific and epidemiologic assistance.

b. Epidemiologic Investigations

Provide consultation and assist in monitoring the data; participate in the study analysis and collaborate in interpreting the study findings.

c. Mesothelioma Surveillance

(1) Provide a standard protocol and questionnaire to be used to trace and interview cases of mesothelioma, and analyze the risk of environmental exposure to asbestos contaminated vermiculite ore from Libby, MT, and link it to the cases of mesothelioma.

(2) Provide scientific and epidemiologic assistance.

d. Conduct technical and peer review

F. Content

Applications

The Program Announcement title and number must appear in the application. Use the information in the Program Requirements, Other Requirements, and Evaluation Criteria sections to develop the application content. Your application will be evaluated on the criteria listed, so it is important to follow them in laying out your program plan. The narrative should be no more than 30 pages, double spaced, printed on one side, with one inch margins, and unreduced 12-point font.

The narrative should consist of, at a minimum, a Plan, Objectives, Methods, Evaluation and Budget.