

various identified objectives of MARI or cooperative agreement. Measures of effectiveness must relate to the performance goals as 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.

An independent review group appointed by CDC will evaluate each application against the following criteria:

(1) Description and Justification of Research Plan, Objectives and Methodology (35 points)

a. Applicability and relevance of study objectives to Black and Hispanic communities.

b. Integration of culturally competent and relevant study methodology for Black and Hispanic communities.

c. Study questions address gaps in the HIV/AIDS research literature or build on the findings of previously conducted research in Black and Hispanic populations.

d. Applicant's understanding of research objectives as evidenced by the quality of the proposed research plan and specific study design and methods.

e. Feasibility of plan to sample, recruit and enroll study participants in a culturally appropriate manner and design study instruments that are culturally appropriate to Black and Hispanic populations.

f. Plan to ensure confidentiality of participants.

(2) Familiarity with and access to Black and Hispanic communities most adversely and disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic (30 points)

a. Experience conducting research and working in Black and Hispanic communities.

b. Ability of the investigator to identify with Black and/or Hispanic populations at-risk for HIV.

c. Extent of applicant's knowledge of issues faced by Black and/or Hispanic communities affected by HIV.

d. Demonstrable ability to recruit study population and obtain valid data through the use of culturally appropriate methods and instruments.

(3) Demonstration of community collaboration during study design, recruitment and project implementation. (20 points)

a. Evidence of plan for establishing a partnership with at least one community organization to consult on all aspects of conducting the study and to link participants with prevention and medical services as needed.

b. Evidence that plans for recruitment and outreach for study participants will include establishing partnerships with communities.

c. Feasibility of plans to involve the study population, their advocates, or service providers in the development of research activities and to inform them of research results.

(4) Demonstration of Capability to Conduct Research (15 points)

a. Applicant's ability to carry out the proposed research as demonstrated by the experience of the principal investigator and the proposed research team and organizational setting.

b. Demonstration of epidemiologic, behavioral, clinical, laboratory, administrative, and management expertise needed to conduct the proposed research.

c. Demonstration that principal investigator and staff have experience working with the targeted population of study participants.

Budget (reviewed, but not scored)

Extent to which budget is reasonable, itemized, clearly justified and within funding limits of this program announcement.

Human subjects: (not scored)

Does the application adequately address the requirements of Title 45 CFR Part 46 for the protection of human subjects?

Does the application adequately address the CDC Policy requirements regarding the inclusion of women, ethnic, and racial groups in the proposed research. This includes:

1. The proposed plan for the inclusion of both sexes and racial and ethnic minority populations for appropriate representation.

2. The proposed justification when representation is limited or absent.

3. A statement as to whether the design of the study is adequate to measure differences when warranted.

4. A statement as to whether the plans for recruitment and outreach for study participants include the process of establishing partnerships with Community(ies) and recognition of mutual benefits.

I. Other Requirements

Technical Reporting Requirements

Provide CDC with original plus two copies of:

1. Interim progress report, no less than 90 days before the end of the budget period. The progress report will serve as your non-competing continuation application, and must contain the following elements:

a. Current Budget Period Activities Objectives.

b. Current Budget Period Financial Progress.

c. New Budget Period Program Proposed Activity Objectives.

d. Detailed Line-Item Budget and Justification.

e. Additional Requested Information.

2. Financial status report, no more than 90 days after the end of the budget period.

3. Final financial and performance reports, no more than 90 days after the end of the project period.

Send all reports to the Grants Management Specialist identified in the "Where to Obtain Additional Information" section of this announcement.

Additional Requirements

The following additional requirements are applicable to this program. For a complete description of each, see Attachment I of the program announcement as posted on the CDC Web site.

AR-1 Human Subjects Requirements

AR-2 Requirements for Inclusion of Women and Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Research

AR-4 HIV/AIDS Confidentiality Provisions

AR-5 HIV Program Review Panel Requirements

AR-6 Patient Care

AR-7 Executive Order 12372 Review

AR-9 Paperwork Reduction Act Requirements

AR-10 Smoke-Free Workplace Requirements

AR-11 Healthy People 2010

AR-12 Lobbying Restrictions

AR-22 Research Integrity

J. Where To Obtain Additional Information

This and other CDC announcements, the necessary applications, and associated forms can be found on the CDC Web site, Internet address: <http://www.cdc.gov>.

Click on "Funding" then "Grants and Cooperative Agreements".

For general questions about this announcement, contact: Technical Information Management, CDC Procurement and Grants Office, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341-4146, Telephone: 770-488-2700.

For business management and budget assistance, contact: Carlos Smiley, Grants Management Officer, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341-4146, Telephone: 770-488-2722, e-mail address: Csmiley1@cdc.gov.