

For program technical assistance, contact: Lisa K. Fitzpatrick, MD, MPH, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Rd. #E-45, Atlanta, GA 30333, 404-639-5166.

Dated: May 30, 2003.

Edward Schultz,

Acting Director, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 03-14128 Filed 6-4-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Program Announcement 03114]

Improve State and Local Health Information and Data Systems; Notice of Availability of Funds

Application Deadline: July 21, 2003.

A. Authority and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number

This program is authorized under section 301(a) of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 241(a), as amended. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number is 93.283.

B. Purpose

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2003 funds for a cooperative agreement program to improve the capability of state and local health information and data systems to monitor and improve the health of U.S. populations and their communities. This program addresses the "Healthy People 2010" focus area of Public Health Infrastructure.

The purpose of the program is to better enable state and local health departments to regularly and systematically collect, assemble, analyze, and disseminate information on the health of their populations and communities. Further background may be found in the 1988 Institute of Medicine report "The Future of Public Health," which described the three core functions of public health: assessment, policy development, and assurance. As part of the assessment function, every public health agency should regularly and systematically collect, assemble, analyze, and make available information on the health of the community, including statistics on health status, community health needs, and epidemiologic and other studies of health problems.

Measurable outcomes of the program will be in alignment with one or more of the following performance goals for the Epidemiology Program Office (EPO):

1. Maximize the distribution and use of scientific information and prevention messages through modern communication technology.
2. Encourage state health departments to develop efficient and comprehensive public health information and surveillance systems by promoting the use of the Internet and by focusing on development of standards for communications and data elements.
3. Implement accessible training programs to provide an effective work force for staffing state and local health departments, laboratories, and ministries of health in developing countries.

C. Eligible Applicants

Assistance will be provided only to national non-profit organizations. Eligible national organizations must have affiliate offices and local, state, or regional membership constituencies in a minimum of 10 states and territories. Affiliate offices and local, state, or regional membership constituencies may not apply in lieu of, or on behalf of, their national office. No other applications are solicited. Limiting assistance to national organizations is necessary to produce the maximum possible enhancement, given available resources, of the assessment capacities of state and local health departments throughout the nation.

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 \$200,000 is available in FY 2003 to fund approximately two awards. It is expected that the average award will be \$100,000, ranging from \$50,000 to \$150,000. It is expected that the awards will begin on or about September 15, 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.

Recipient Financial Participation

No matching funds are required for this program.

Funding Preferences

Funding preference may be given to organizations whose primary mission is to support state and local health agencies.

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.

1. Recipient Activities

a. Establish and maintain activities which support health information and data systems for state and local health departments.

b. Implement projects and activities with specific, measurable, and feasible goals, objectives, and timelines. Evaluate the effectiveness of the activities related to this program including possible indicators of success.

c. Participate in the annual CDC Assessment Initiative Conference each budget year of the project period for the purpose of sharing best practices learned from the planned activities.

d. Disseminate project-related information and findings through a variety of methods.

e. Implement an operational plan for one or more of the following activities:

(1) Data and Statistical Standards: Develop guidelines to facilitate the implementation of data and statistical specifications and standards in health information systems by state and local health agencies. These specifications and standards should take advantage of existing national and international data and information standards (e.g., products of the Public Health Data Standards Consortium), and work already done in the public and private sectors.

(2) Technical Assistance: Develop a plan to address the technical needs of state and local health departments in such areas as methods of linking or matching data; methods of managing and storing data; methods of analyzing data; methods of querying or otherwise accessing data; methods of displaying and disseminating information; and methods of ensuring the integrity and security of data, the confidentiality of data about individual persons, and compliance with the privacy and security standards of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Identify the most common requests for information that state and local health agencies receive, assess information and service needs, and provide direct technical assistance to requesting agencies.