

Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau), and political subdivisions of states (in consultation with states).

To be eligible, applicants must:

1. Provide evidence of an existing surveillance system(s) for *Pfiesteria* or other harmful algae, their toxins, or other marine toxins. This may be demonstrated through a letter from your organization's leadership and a copy of a recent surveillance report print out.

2. Demonstrate your organization has capacity and experience providing surveillance activities for adverse human health outcomes and exposure to waters contaminated with *Pfiesteria*, other harmful algae, their toxins, or other marine toxins. This may be demonstrated through letters of support.

This information should be placed directly behind the face page (first page) of your application. Applications that fail to submit evidence requested above will be considered non-responsive and returned without review.

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 \$3,000,000 is available in FY 2003 to fund approximately six to eight awards. It is expected that the average award will be \$500,000, ranging from \$250,000 to \$750,000. 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.

Recipient Financial Participation

No matching funds are required for this program.

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

All proposed activities should be planned and conducted in collaboration and coordination with CDC by state/local health departments, and where appropriate, in consultation with:

- Appropriate state and local professional associations.
- Health care providers and institutions serving, diagnosing, or providing treatment and care for persons having symptoms related to exposure to *Pfiesteria*, harmful algal blooms, or marine toxins, including laboratories conducting testing.
- Relevant community groups and organizations.
- Universities and health research agencies.

Surveillance activities should:

a. Target individuals with high risk of exposure to waters containing harmful algae, including *Pfiesteria piscicida*.

b. Conduct investigations of all cases of *Pfiesteria*-related illnesses meeting the set of exposure conditions and clinical signs and symptoms previously agreed upon by State and Federal partners to determine risk factors for illness, and to consider banking clinical materials for future laboratory confirmation of exposure.

c. Conduct investigations of illnesses associated with harmful algae to determine risk factors for illness and to consider banking clinical materials for future laboratory confirmation of exposure.

d. Develop and conduct surveillance activities to identify potential sources of exposure to harmful algae, including *P. piscicida* and *Pfiesteria*-like organisms, and bank clinical samples for future analysis.

e. Regularly report information collected using the pre-existing PEAS (Possible Estuary Associated Syndrome) surveillance software to the aggregate database that is housed at CDC.

f. Assess clinical data on people with illnesses related to exposure to harmful algae.

g. Develop and implement appropriate preventive strategies and develop information materials for use by health professionals and the public to aid in prevention and control of illnesses associated with *P. piscicida* and other harmful algae.

Applicants may include several research activity projects within their proposal. If applying for the research funding, suggested examples of the specific areas of research activities may include:

a. Laboratory studies to further define the biological impacts associated with the presence of *P. piscicida*, other harmful algae, and the toxins they produce.

b. Further characterization of the environmental impact on estuarine waters associated with the presence of *P. piscicida*, other harmful algae, and the toxins they produce.

c. Exploring the impact of anthropogenic nutrient sources on the composition of phytoplankton communities in drinking water sources and recreational waters.

d. Examining the potential for human health effects from chronic low-level exposures to toxins produced by similar organisms.

2. CDC Activities

a. Provide consultation and scientific and technical assistance and training, surveillance, epidemiologic research, laboratory and prevention activities.

b. As needed, assist in refining the format for reporting surveillance data including case report forms, database, and maintaining the reporting system.

c. Participate with states to reach mutually agreed upon standardized study protocols and, where appropriate, data collection instruments for projects or studies.

d. Assist in preparing standard data collection forms, questionnaires, etc., as needed in surveillance activities and special epidemiologic investigations.

e. Assist in the evaluation of the overall effectiveness of program operations, including the impact of surveillance data on the development of public policy, and on targeting and evaluating prevention activities.

f. Participate in the analysis of information and data gathered from program activities and facilitate the transfer of information and technology among all states and communities.

g. Assist in the development of a research protocol for Institutional Review Board (IRB) review by all cooperating institutions participating in the research project. The CDC IRB will review and approve the protocol initially and on at least an annual basis until the research project is completed.

F. Content

Letter of Intent (LOI)

A LOI is required for this program. The Program Announcement title and number must appear in the LOI. The narrative should be no more than 5 pages, double-spaced, printed on one side, with one-inch margins, and unredacted 12-point font. Your letter of intent will be used to enable CDC to determine the level of interest in the announcement, and should include the following information:

- a. Organization name and address.
- b. Project Director and telephone number.

c. An abstract briefly summarizing the surveillance program for which funds are requested, including the activities to be undertaken and an estimated budget.