

to fund fiscal year (FY) 2003 funds for a cooperative agreement to improve country-level capacity for prompt detection and response to priority communicable diseases in the priority countries of Mozambique, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, and Mali. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this program is 93.283.

#### B. Eligible Applicant

Assistance will be provided only to Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response, African Regional Office of the World Health Organization (CSR, WHO-AFRO). No other applications are solicited.

CSR, WHO-AFRO is the most appropriate and qualified organization to conduct the activities specified under this cooperative agreement because it is the sole organization with legal authority to provide guidance, monitoring and evaluation on IDSR to the member states in the African region and with the internal administrative capacity to provide funds to the WHO country offices and ministries of health for country-level activities.

#### C. Funding

Approximately \$240,000 is available in FY 2003 to fund this award. It is expected that the award will begin on or before September 1, 2003, and will be made for a 12-month budget period within a project period of one year. Funding estimates may change.

#### D. Where To Obtain Additional Information

For general comments or 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 technical questions about this program, contact: Ms. Helen Perry or Dr. Montse Soriano-Gabarro, Meningitis and Special Pathogens Branch, Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases, National Center for Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA 30333. Telephone number (404) 639-0706 or (404) 639-4062; email address [hap5@cdc.gov](mailto:hap5@cdc.gov) or [zzd7@cdc.gov](mailto:zzd7@cdc.gov).

Dated: July 1, 2003.

**Sandra R. Manning,**

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*  
[FR Doc. 03-17160 Filed 7-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-18-P

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Program Announcement 03061]

#### Expansion of Reference Laboratory Infrastructure To Support HIV/AIDS/STD/TB Control Activities in the Republic of Zambia; Notice of Availability of Funds

*Application Deadline:* August 7, 2003.

##### A. Authority and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number

This program is authorized under section 307 of the Public Health Service Act, (42 U.S.C. 2421), as amended. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number is 93.941.

##### B. Purpose

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2003 funds for a cooperative agreement program with the national reference laboratories that support HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Tuberculosis (TB) surveillance and control activities in Zambia.

The purpose of this program is to build Zambia's national reference laboratory capacity to effectively monitor and control HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), as well as TB, the most common opportunistic infection associated with HIV in Zambia. Funds in this agreement may be used to support surveillance of these diseases and enhancements in information technology and capacity to analyze and disseminate reference laboratory findings. Collaborative activities between CDC and reference laboratories are intended to profoundly improve the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS, STD and TB program activities in Zambia.

The United States Government (USG) seeks to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS in specific countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Americas through its Leadership and Investment in Fighting an Epidemic (LIFE) initiative. To carry out this initiative, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has organized its Global AIDS Program (GAP) to strengthen capacity and expand activities in the areas of (1) HIV prevention; (2) HIV care, support and treatment; and (3) capacity and infrastructure development, especially for HIV/AIDS surveillance activities.

Targeted countries represent those with the most severe epidemics and the

highest number of new infections. They also represent countries where the potential for impact is greatest and where U.S. Government agencies are already active. Zambia is one of these targeted countries.

Through CDC, HHS is working in a collaborative manner with national governments and other agencies to develop programs of assistance to address the HIV/AIDS epidemics in LIFE Initiative countries. In particular, CDC's mission in Zambia is to improve surveillance for HIV, TB and STIs and to strengthen and make more effective programs for preventing and treating these diseases.

Measurable outcomes of the program will be in alignment with one or more of the following performance goals for the National Center for HIV/STD/TB Prevention: Strengthen the capacity nationwide to monitor the epidemic, develop and implement effective HIV prevention interventions and evaluate prevention programs, and improve HIV/AIDS information management and decision making by developing well coordinated databases by 2005.

##### C. Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by research institutions, hospitals, and government reference laboratories in Zambia. Applicants must be actively involved in surveillance of HIV, STIs or TB on a national or regional level. CDC has been working closely with the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) to build its national laboratory system. Because the intent of this agreement is to support national public health laboratory infrastructure, applicants must have a mandate from the GRZ to provide reference laboratory services within the system.

##### D. Funding

###### *Availability of Funds*

Approximately \$300,000 is available in FY 2003 to fund approximately three awards. It is expected that the average award will be \$100,000, ranging from \$90,000 to \$110,000. 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 five 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 not be used for:

1. Funds received from this announcement will not be used for the