

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-10 Smoke-Free Workplace Requirements

AR-11 Healthy People 2010

AR-12 Lobbying Restrictions

AR-15 Proof of Non-Profit Status

Executive Order 12372 does not apply to this program.

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: Deborah Workman, Contract Specialist, CDC Procurement and Grants Office, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341-4146, Telephone: (770) 488-2085, E-mail address: atl7@cdc.gov.

For program technical assistance, contact: Devery Howerton, Ph.D., Chief, Laboratory Practice Evaluation and Genomics Branch, Division of Laboratory Systems, CDC Public Health Practice Program Office, 4770 Buford Highway, NE., Mailstop G-23, Atlanta, GA 30341-3717, Telephone: (770) 488-8126, E-mail: dhowerton@cdc.gov.

Dated: July 1, 2003.

Edward Schultz,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Program Announcement 03119]

Enhancing Testing Practices in the Clinical Laboratory by Developing Specific Training Activities for Medical Technologists, Medical Laboratory Technicians, and Pathologists; Notice of Availability of Funds

Application Deadline: August 8, 2003.

A. Authority and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number

This program is authorized under section 317(k)(2) of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 247b(k)(2), 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 for Enhancing Testing Practices in the Clinical Laboratory by Developing Specific Training Activities for Medical Technologists (MT), Medical Laboratory Technicians (MLT), and Pathologists. This program addresses the "Healthy People 2010" focus areas of: Access to Quality Health Services, and Public Health Infrastructure.

The purpose of the program is to enhance laboratory testing practices and the quality of laboratory testing in the United States. These enhancements in testing practices and the quality of laboratory testing will be related to areas of public health significance such as, antimicrobial susceptibility testing, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) rapid testing, testing for genetic disorders, chemical terrorism events, other diseases of public health importance, and the regulations, (*i.e.*, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA)) governing laboratory testing. In addition to enhancing the quality of laboratory testing, the cooperative agreement will also evaluate the training received by laboratory MTs, MLTs, and pathologists to ensure appropriate training efforts are being developed and targeted effectively to the work force of laboratorians located in clinical laboratories across the United States.

Measurable outcomes of the program will be in alignment with one or more of the following performance goals for the Public Health Practice Program Office: "Increase the number of frontline public health workers at the state and local level that are competent and prepared to respond to bioterrorism, other infectious disease outbreaks, and other public health threats and emergencies and prepare frontline state and local health departments and laboratories to respond to current and emerging public health threats.

C. Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by:

- Public nonprofit organizations.
- Private nonprofit organizations.
- Faith-based organizations.

Applications from the above referenced entities are being solicited

because they represent organizations that have sufficient background, experience, and current knowledge of testing in the nation's clinical laboratories, already have in place an established training system for laboratorians that will reach laboratorians across the nation, have an established network of laboratories that provide unique opportunities for continued learning to constituents in all 50 states, have an established training system to enhance laboratory infrastructure with regard to testing, identifying, and reporting potential disease threats, and have a broad outreach to the medical laboratory professionals. These organizations are being solicited because they have a variety of established methods for delivery of laboratory training even in remote areas.

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 \$150,000 is available in FY 2003 to fund approximately one award. It is expected that the award will be \$150,000, ranging from \$125,000 to \$175,000. It is expected that the award 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 budget 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

Matching funds are not required for this program.

Funding Preferences

Preference may be given to organizations having established medical laboratory training systems that offer a variety of methods to conduct training related to a large variety of subject matter, consistent with those disease threats of public health significance, and that would have a broad outreach to the medical laboratory community that would provide an end result of enhancing laboratory infrastructure.

E. Program Requirements

In conducting activities to achieve the purpose of this program, the recipient