

c. Characterize pneumonia etiologies at selected institutions

(1) Identify causes of unexplained pneumonia.

(2) Refine and simplify pneumonia diagnostics to develop a "toolkit" appropriate for state health departments.

(3) Store a well-characterized set of specimens from people with severe respiratory illness for diagnostic testing/retrospective discovery of new pathogens.

Project B: Viral Hepatitis

a. Acute Hepatitis A and B.

(1) Establish laboratory-based surveillance for acute hepatitis A and B.

(2) Follow-up reports of laboratory markers of acute hepatitis A and B infection (anti-HAV IgM, anti-HBc IgM and/or HBsAg) to determine case status.

(3) Investigate cases of acute hepatitis A and B, and collect data on clinical manifestations, laboratory findings, and risk factors. Investigations may include provider and patient interview, and medical record review.

(4) Explore the feasibility of collecting serologic specimens on acute hepatitis A and B cases.

b. Acute Hepatitis C.

(1) Increase the sensitivity and specificity of case reporting (activities depend on local mechanism for reporting).

(2) Explore the feasibility of laboratory-based reporting for acute hepatitis C, including linking liver enzyme test results with laboratory markers for hepatitis C infection (antibody to HCV, and HCV RNA (PCR)).

c. Chronic Hepatitis B and C (optional activity in first year).

(1) Develop an unduplicated database of laboratory reports of markers of chronic hepatitis B and C infection (antibody to HCV, HBsAg).

(2) Develop a prioritized algorithm for follow-up of laboratory reports of markers of chronic hepatitis B and C infection. Contact prioritized cases of chronic hepatitis B and C for counseling and preventive services.

2. CDC Activities (for both projects).

a. Provide consultation and scientific and technical assistance as needed in general operations of the studies and in designing and conducting individual projects.

b. Assist in developing collaborative relationships and facilitate multi-site collaboration as needed to support the successful completion of the project.

c. Participate in analysis and interpretation of data from the project.

d. As needed, assist in monitoring and evaluating scientific and operational

accomplishments of the project and progress in achieving the purpose and overall goals of the program.

e. If a proposed project involves research with human subjects and CDC scientists will be co-investigators in that research, assist in the development of a research protocol for IRB review by all institutions participating in the research project. The CDC IRB will review and approve the project initially and on, at least, an annual basis until the research project is completed.

F. Application Content

Grantees may apply for supplemental funds for one or both of the two described projects. If applying for both projects (A-SARS and B-Hepatitis), a separate narrative, budget, and budget justification must be submitted for each. On Form 424 and in the budget justification, applicants should provide a 12-month budget that clearly distinguishes the resources requested for "Project A" activities and/or "Project B" activities. The line item budgets for Project A—Surveillance for SARS and Severe Pneumonia and for Project B—Hepatitis, should separate costs by the separate activities as broken out in the Recipient Activities section, above.

For all activities proposed, the requested budget should be for a 12-month period; however funding will be awarded only for items that can be obligated by the end of the current EIP budget period (December 29, 2003).

If requesting funds for any contracts, provide the following information for each proposed contract: (1) Name of proposed contractor; (2) breakdown and justification for estimated costs; (3) description and scope of activities to be performed by contractor; (4) period of performance; and (5) method of contractor selection (e.g. sole-source or competitive solicitation).

Use the information in the Program Requirements section to develop the application content. Narratives for each Project (A-SARS or B-Hepatitis), should be no more than five single-spaced pages (not including budget and appendices for items such as curricula vitae, letters of support, and other similar supporting information). Material or information that should be part of the narrative will not be accepted if placed in the appendices. Do NOT solicit or submit letters of support from CDC personnel.

G. Submission and Deadline

Application Forms

Submit the signed original and two copies of PHS 5161-1 (OMB Number 0920-0428). Forms are available at the

following Internet address: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/forminfo.htm>.

If you do not have access to the Internet, or if you have difficulty accessing the forms on-line, you may contact the CDC Procurement and Grants Office Technical Information Management Section (PGO-TIM) at: 770-488-2700. Application forms can be mailed to you.

Submission Date, Time, and Address

The application must be received by 4 p.m. Eastern Time August 14, 2003. Submit the application to: Technical Information Management—PA#03188, CDC Procurement and Grants Office, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341-4146.

Applications may not be submitted electronically.

CDC Acknowledgement of Application Receipt

A postcard will be mailed by PGO-TIM, notifying you that CDC has received your application.

Deadline

Letters of intent and applications shall be considered as meeting the deadline if they are received before 4 p.m. Eastern Time on the deadline date. Any applicant who sends their application by the United States Postal Service or commercial delivery services must ensure that the carrier will be able to guarantee delivery of the application by the closing date and time. If an application is received after closing due to (1) Carrier error, when the carrier accepted the package with a guarantee for delivery by the closing date and time, or (2) significant weather delays or natural disasters, CDC will upon receipt of proper documentation, consider the application as having been received by the deadline.

Any application that does not meet the above criteria will not be eligible for competition, and will be discarded. The applicant will be notified of their failure to meet the submission requirements.

H. Evaluation Criteria

Applicants are required to provide measures of effectiveness that will demonstrate the accomplishment of the various identified objectives of the cooperative agreement. Measures of effectiveness must relate to the performance goal stated in the purpose section of this announcement. Measures must be objective and quantitative and must measure the intended outcome. These measures of effectiveness must be submitted with the application and will be an element of evaluation.