

This will help determine the number and types of reviewers which will be required for the objective review. Therefore applicants must submit a one-page letter of intent. This letter must identify the applicant organization, its intent to apply, and briefly describe the proposal to be submitted.

ADDRESSES: All Cooperative Agreement applications should be mailed or delivered to: HRSA Grant Application Center, 901 Russell Avenue, Suite 450, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879. Applications sent to any other address will be returned.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Additional information on the TC and the HRSA/DHHS technical assistance portion of the Cooperative Agreement may be obtained from Thurma Goldman, MD, MPH, HIV/AIDS Bureau, at (301) 443-1993; fax (301) 443-9645; e-mail: tgoldman@hrsa.gov; mail HIV/AIDS Bureau, HRSA 5600 Fishers Lane, Parklawn Building, Room 7-13, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Additional information on the twinning activity funding portion of the Cooperative Agreement may be obtained from Mr. Eduardo G. Elia, USAID, Contracts Specialist, M/OP/GH/POP, at (202) 712-0901; fax (202) 216-3132; e-mail eelia@usaid.gov; mail USAID, M/OP/GH/POP, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, RRB 7.09-133, Washington, DC 20523-7100.

Pre-Application Technical Assistance Conference Call: There will be a pre-application technical assistance conference call with potential applicants approximately 3 weeks after publication of the Notice of Availability of Funds (NOAF) for the CATC. The conference call will be with HRSA and USAID officials familiar with the NOAF requirements. The purpose of the call will be to answer questions which potential applicants may have about the application guidance or questions about completing the application. All questions to be discussed at the conference call must be submitted in advance of the call to HRSA, by fax, e-mail, or regular mail. Questions should be submitted to: Thurma Goldman, M.D., M.P.H., Program Director, Global HIV/AIDS, HIV/AIDS Bureau, HRSA, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 7-13, Rockville, MD 20857, at (301)-443-1993; fax: 301/443-9645; e-mail: TGoldman@hrsa.gov. To find out the exact date and time of the technical assistance conference call, and timeframe for submission of questions, please call the HRSA's HIV/AIDS Bureau main office on (301) 443-1993.

Technical Oversight of the Cooperative Agreements: The TC

Cooperative Agreement will be managed by two Project Officers. The USAID Project Officer will provide oversight and technical management of the Cooperative Agreement activities associated with the award and monitoring of funds for the actual expenses of the in-country twinning partners and volunteer activities. The HRSA Project Officer will provide oversight and technical management of the activities associated with the operation and management of the TC and VHC and the provision of technical assistance to the twinning partners (including the identification of organizations and partnerships and proposed activities) and VHC.

Guidance for the CATC will be provided by a Technical Assistance Group, which will be subordinate to the PMTCT Interagency Steering Committee, comprised of members of the Presidential Initiative Human Resources Workstream. Guidance will be provided to the TC via the USAID and HRSA Project Officers. The Guidance will provide overall direction for the TC's goals and objectives in the development and implementation of partnerships.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Cooperative Agreements are a type of Federal assistance that involves a substantial level of government participation in funded activities. Under the cooperative agreement, HRSA and USAID require that certain activities be planned jointly and include approval from HRSA, USAID, and the TC Technical Assistance Group. HRSA and USAID responsibilities will be in the following areas:

(a) Provide consultation and technical assistance in planning, operation, and evaluation activities, including the identification and selection of in-country partners;

(b) facilitate the coordination and collaboration among program partners, such as USAID, CDC and their field offices or missions, and the TAG and TC;

(c) facilitate efforts in the provision of technical assistance and training in twinning to specified individuals and organizations;

(d) participate, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of any meetings, training activities, or workgroups conducted during the period of the cooperative agreement;

(e) provide technical assistance to the TC to increase its capacity to succeed in this international collaboration;

(f) maintain an ongoing dialogue with the TC concerning program plans, policies, and other issues which have

major implications for any activities undertaken by the applicants under the cooperative agreement;

(g) review, provide comments, recommendations, and approvals for documents, curricula, program plans, budgets, work to be contracted out, key personnel (including consultants and contractors), workplan revisions, etc. prior to printing, dissemination or implementation;

(h) provide feedback to the TC on quarterly and other reports; and

(i) serve as the official interface between the TAG and the TC.

Detailed information on grantee responsibilities is provided in the application guidance.

The applicant receiving the award will be required to submit quarterly reports, a mid-term report during the 30th month of the project, and a final report at the end of the project.

The applicant receiving the award will not be required to match or share in project costs. Any matching or cost sharing will not be considered as part of the selection decision.

This program is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, as implemented by 45 CFR part 100. Executive Order 12372 allows States the option of setting up a system for reviewing applications from within their States for assistance under certain Federal programs. Application packages made available under this Guidance will contain a listing of States which have chosen to set up such a review system and will provide a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for the state's review. Information on states affected by this program and State Points of Contact may also be obtained from the Grants Management Specialist cited in the application guidance, as well as at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html>. All applicants other than federally recognized American Indian tribes should contact their SPOCs as early as possible to alert them to prospective applications and receive any necessary instruction on the State process used under this Executive Order.

The activities proposed to be implemented through this award are not considered to be research activities.

Non-Federal reviewers will participate in the review of submitted applications. Applicants have the option of omitting from the application copies (but not from the original) specific salary rates or amounts for individuals specified in the application budget and Social Security Numbers, if otherwise required for individuals. The copies may include summary salary information.