

Additional information may be included in the application appendices. The appendices will not be counted toward the narrative page limit. This additional information includes: Curriculum Vitae, Resumes, Organizational Charts, Letters of Support, and other pertinent documents.

IV. 3. Submission Dates and Times:

Application Deadline Date: March 1, 2004.

Explanation of Deadlines:

Applications must be received in the CDC Procurement and Grants Office by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the deadline date. If you send your application by the United States Postal Service or commercial delivery service, you must ensure that the carrier will be able to guarantee delivery of the application by the closing date and time. If CDC receives your application 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, you will be given the opportunity to submit documentation of the carrier's guarantee. If the documentation verifies a carrier problem, CDC will consider the application as having been received by the deadline.

This program announcement is the definitive guide on application format, content, and deadlines. It supersedes information provided in the application instructions. If your application does not meet the deadline above, it will not be eligible for review, and will be discarded. You will be notified that your application did not meet the submission requirements.

CDC will not notify you upon receipt of your application. If you have a question about the receipt of your application, first contact your courier. If you still have a question, contact the PGO-TIM staff at: 770-488-2700. Before calling, please wait two to three days after the application deadline. This will allow time for applications to be processed and logged.

IV. 4. Intergovernmental Review of Applications: Executive Order 12372 does not apply to this program.

IV. 5. Funding Restrictions: Funding restrictions, which must be taken into account while writing your budget are as follows:

- Funds may be used only for activities associated with strengthening blood transfusion services. USG funds may be used for direct costs such as salaries; necessary travel; operating costs, including supplies, fuel, utilities, etc.; staff training costs, including registration fees and purchase and rental

of training related equipment; and purchase of HIV testing reagents, test kits, and laboratory equipment for HIV testing.

- No funds made available under this solicitation may be used to provide assistance to any group or organization that does not have a policy explicitly opposing prostitution and sex trafficking. This written statement of certification must be signed by authorized person(s) within the applicant group or organization, including the individuals submitting the application. No funds made available under this solicitation may be used to promote or advocated the legalization or practice of prostitution or sex trafficking. Nothing in the preceding two sentences shall be construed to preclude the provision to individuals of palliative care, treatment, or post-exposure pharmaceutical prophylaxis, and necessary pharmaceuticals and other commodities, including test kits, condoms, and, when proven effective, microbicides.

- No funds appropriated under this solicitation shall be used to carry out any program of distributing sterile needles or syringes for the hypodermic use of any illegal drug.

- Applicants may contract with other organizations under this program; however, the applicant must perform a substantial portion of the activities (including program management and operations, and delivery of services for which funds are requested).

- The costs that are generally allowable in grants to domestic organizations are allowable to foreign institutions and international organizations, with the following exception: With the exception of American University, Beirut and the World Health Organization, indirect costs will not be paid (either directly or through a sub-award) to organizations located outside the territorial limits of the United States or to international organizations regardless of their location.

- All requests for funds contained in the budget shall be stated in U.S. dollars. Once an award is made, the U.S. Government will not compensate foreign grantees for currency exchange fluctuations through the issuance of supplemental awards.

- A fiscal Recipient Capability assessment may be required, prior to or post award, in order to review the applicant's business management and fiscal capabilities regarding the handling of U.S. Federal funds.

- You must obtain an annual audit of these U.S. Government funds (program-specific audit) by a U.S.—based audit

firm with international branches and current licensure/authority in-country, and in accordance with International Accounting Standards or equivalent standard(s) approved in writing by the U.S. Government.

IV. 6. Other Submission Requirements:

Submit your application by mail or express delivery service to: Technical Information Management—PA#04077, CDC Procurement and Grants Office, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341, USA.

Applications may not be submitted electronically at this time.

V. Application Review Information

V. 1. Criteria: You 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 goals 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. These should be included in your project narrative under "Goals."

Your application will be evaluated against the following criteria:

1. Current capability: 55 Points

(a) Infrastructure/Experience—Does the applicant have the resources as well as demonstrated experience necessary to develop blood center infrastructure, including buildings, equipment, and supplies?

(b) Blood collection—Does the applicant have the resources to develop blood collection facilities and blood donor recruitment networks?

(c) Testing—Does the applicant have the resources to develop blood transfusion testing laboratories, including standard operating procedures protocols?

(d) Transfusion and Blood Utilization—Does the applicant have the resources to develop blood transfusion practice guidelines and a blood utilization review program?

(e) Training—Does the applicant have the resources to develop a comprehensive training program in the basic principles and practices of blood banking and transfusion medicine?

(f) Monitoring and evaluation—Is there a monitoring and evaluation plan in place? Does the plan measure important indicators?

(g) Management and Administration—Does the applicant have the resources to