

Incomplete applications and applications that are non-responsive to the eligibility criteria will not advance through the review process. Applicants will be notified that their application did not meet submission requirements.

Applications that are complete and responsive to the announcement will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by an appropriate peer review group or charter study section, a Special Emphasis Panel (SEP), convened by the OPHR in accordance with the review criteria listed above. As part of the initial merit review, all applications will:

- Undergo a process in which only those applications deemed to have the highest scientific merit by the review group, generally the top half of the applications under review, will be discussed and assigned a priority score.
- Receive a written critique.
- Receive a second programmatic level review by the Office of Science, National Immunization Program.
- Under go a peer review by a Special Emphasis Panel. The SEP will be selected from the NIH pool of scientists or recommendations from the National Immunization Program to serve as reviewers on SEPs. Applications will be ranked for the secondary review according to scores submitted by the SEP. Only those applications deemed to have the highest scientific merit by the review group, generally the top half of the applications under review, will be discussed and assigned a priority score.

Award Criteria: Criteria that will be used to make award decisions during the programmatic review include:

- Scientific merit (as determined by peer review)
- Availability of funds
- Programmatic priorities

V.3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Award Date: August 31, 2005.

VI. Award Administration Information

VI.1. Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive a Notice of Award (NoA) from the CDC Procurement and Grants Office. The NoA shall be the only binding, authorizing document between the recipient and CDC. The NoA will be signed by an authorized Grants Management Officer, and mailed to the recipient fiscal officer identified in the application.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive notification of the results of the application review by mail.

VI.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

45 CFR Part 74 and Part 92

For more information on the Code of Federal Regulations, see the National Archives and Records Administration at the following Internet address: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfr-table-search.html>.

The following additional requirements apply to this project:

- AR-1 Human Subjects Requirements
- AR-2 Requirements for Inclusion of Women and Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Research
- AR-7 Executive Order 12372
- AR-10 Smoke-Free Workplace Requirements
- AR-11 Healthy People 2010
- AR-12 Lobbying Restrictions
- AR-15 Proof of Non-Profit Status
- AR-22 Research Integrity
- AR-24 Health Insurance

Portability and Accountability Act Requirements

- AR-25 Release and Sharing of Data

Additional information on these requirements can be found on the CDC Web site at the following Internet address: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/ARs.htm>.

VI.3. Reporting

You must provide CDC with an original, plus two hard copies of the following reports:

1. Interim progress report, (use form PHS 2590, OMB Number 0925-0001, rev. 9/2004 as posted on the CDC Web site) no less than 90 days before the end of the budget period. The progress report will serve as your non-competing continuation application, and must contain the following additional elements:

- a. Progress Toward Measures of Effectiveness.
- b. Additional Information Requested by Program.

2. Financial status report, no more than 90 days after the end of the budget period.

3. Final financial and performance reports, no more than 90 days after the end of the project period.

These reports must be mailed to the Grants Management Specialist listed in the "Agency Contacts" section of this announcement.

VII. Agency Contacts

We encourage inquiries concerning this announcement.

For general questions, contact: Technical Information Management Section, CDC Procurement and Grants

Office, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341, telephone: 770-488-2700.

For scientific/research issues, contact: Susan Chu, PhD, MSPH, Extramural Program Official, National Immunization Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MS E-05, 1600 Clifton Road NE., Atlanta, GA 30333, telephone: 404-639-8727, e-mail: SChu@cdc.gov.

For questions about peer review, contact: Mary Lerchen, DrPH, Scientific Review Administrator, CDC/Office of Public Health Research, One West Court Square, Suite 7000, MS D-72, telephone: 404-371-5277, Fax: 404-371-5215, e-mail: MLerchen@cdc.gov.

For financial, grants management, or budget assistance, contact: Peaches Brown, Grants Management Specialist, CDC Procurement and Grants Office, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341, telephone: 770-488-2738, e-mail: POBrown@cdc.gov.

VIII. Other Information

This and other CDC funding opportunity announcements can be found on the CDC Web site, Internet address: www.cdc.gov. Click on "Funding" then "Grants and Cooperative Agreements."

Dated: May 6, 2005.

William P. Nichols,

Director, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
[FR Doc. 05-9456 Filed 5-11-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Effectiveness of a Hospital-Based Program for Vaccination of Birth Mothers and Household Contacts With Inactivated Influenza Vaccine

Announcement Type: New.

Funding Opportunity Number: RFA IP05-095.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 93.185.

Letter of Intent Deadline: June 13, 2005.

Application Deadline: June 27, 2005.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Authority: Section 311 [42 U.S.C. 243] and 317(k)(1) [42 U.S.C. 247b(k)(1)] of the Public Health Service Act, as amended.

Background

Influenza is a common respiratory infection among young children with a prevalence of 20 percent seasonally

(Neuzil KM, Shy Y *et al.* "Burden of interpandemic influenza in children younger than five years: a 25-year prospective survey". "Journal of Infectious Diseases 2002"; 185:147–52). Children under 23 months of age, especially those with underlying respiratory or cardiac conditions or those who are immunocompromised (Neuzil KM, Wright PF *et al.* "Journal of Pediatrics" 2000; 137(6):856–64.), are at increased risk for complications. In October of 2003, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that all children aged six to 23 months should be immunized with inactivated influenza vaccine beginning with the 2004–2005 influenza season. For those children immunized, this will mean protection from this potentially serious disease. However, children from birth through five months of age are still vulnerable, since this age group is not recommended for vaccination. Vaccination of household contacts, especially the mother, is the best strategy for protecting these children.

Purpose: The purpose of the program is to fund research that will promote the implementation of the ACIP's recommendation to vaccinate household contacts of persons in groups at high risk of influenza related complications with inactivated influenza vaccine. This project is specifically targeted to vaccinate post-partum mothers and other household contacts in order to protect newborn children who are at increased risk of influenza-related hospitalizations and deaths if infected with this disease. This is a two year project with year one for planning and development and the second year for implementation and evaluation activities.

This program addresses the "Healthy People 2010" focus area(s) of immunization and infectious disease.

Measurable outcomes of the program will be in alignment with the performance goal for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Immunization Program (NIP) to reduce the number of indigenous vaccine-preventable diseases.

Research Objectives

- Evaluate the effectiveness of a hospital-based program for vaccinating birth mothers in the immediate post-partum period with inactivated influenza vaccine during influenza season.
- Identify appropriate strategies to assist NIP in implementing programs to improve vaccination rates of birth mothers with inactivated influenza vaccine in hospital settings.

- Develop strategies to vaccinate other household contacts as soon as possible after the birth of the newborn.

Activities

Awardee activities for this program are as follows:

1. Select two birthing hospitals with at least 1,500 deliveries per year. Randomly assign one to serve as the intervention hospital and the other as the control. The hospitals should be similar in terms of demographics of the population served and number of deliveries per year.
2. Implement a strategy for ensuring administration of inactivated influenza vaccine to all birth mothers before hospital discharge. This may include strategies such as standing orders for vaccination, provider reminders through flagging charts, etc.
3. Select a sample size large enough to have 80 percent power to determine if the vaccination rate for the birth mothers is higher in the intervention group than in the control group at an alpha significance level of 0.05. Since the unit of the randomization is the hospital, between-cluster variation may exist and analytic strategies to account for this should be included in the study design.
4. Implement strategies to vaccinate other household contacts of the newborn. This may occur at the birthing hospital or at alternate sites but vaccination should occur as soon as possible after the birth.
5. Develop a study design that will include input from hospital administrative and nursing staff as well as obstetricians who admit patients to the study hospitals to optimize success of the project.
6. Collect information on demographic data of the participants to be analyzed as predictors for immunization.
7. Document areas where difficulties/barriers arose and how they were resolved. This will include implementation activities at the facility level as well as a descriptive summary of vaccine acceptance or non-acceptance by study participants.
8. Obtain rates of uptake of vaccine by study participants by a review of medical records and/or other verification methods.
9. Collaboratively disseminate research findings in peer reviewed publications and presentations at national professional meetings.

In a cooperative agreement, CDC staff is substantially involved in the program activities, above and beyond routine grant monitoring. CDC Activities for this program are as follows:

1. Provide CDC investigator(s) to monitor the cooperative agreement as project officer(s).
2. Participate as active project team members in the development, implementation and conduct of the research project and as coauthors of all scientific publications that result from the project.
3. Provide technical assistance on the selection and evaluation of data collection and data collection instruments.
4. Assist in the development of research protocols for Institutional Review Boards (IRB) review. The CDC IRB will review and approve the project protocol initially and on at least an annual basis until the research project is completed.
5. Contribute subject matter expertise in the areas of epidemiologic methods and statistical analysis, and survey research consultation.
6. Participate in the analysis and dissemination of information, data and findings from the project, facilitating dissemination of results.
7. Serve as liaisons between the recipients of the project award and other administrative units within the CDC.
8. Facilitate an annual meeting between awardee and CDC to coordinate planned efforts and review progress.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Cooperative Agreement.

CDC involvement in this program is listed in the Activities Section above.

Mechanism of Support: U01.

Fiscal Year Funds: 2005.

Approximate Total Funding: \$200,000. (Includes direct and indirect costs. This amount is an estimate, and is subject to availability of funds.)

Approximate Number of Awards: 1.

Approximate Average Award: \$200,000. (Includes direct and indirect costs. This amount is for the first 12-month budget period.)

Floor of Award Range: None.

Ceiling of Award Range: \$200,000. (Includes direct and indirect costs. This ceiling is for the first 12-month budget period.)

Anticipated Award Date: August 31, 2005.

Budget Period Length: 12 months.

Project Period Length: 2 years.

Throughout the project period, CDC's commitment to continuation of awards will be conditioned on the availability of funds, evidence of satisfactory progress by the recipient (as documented in required reports), and the determination that continued funding is in the best interest of the Federal Government.

III. Eligibility Information

III.1. Eligible Applicants

Applications are limited to public and private nonprofit organizations and by governments and their agencies, such as: (For profit organizations are not eligible under Section 317(k)(1) [42 U.S.C. 247b(k)(1) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended.]

- Public nonprofit organizations.
- Private nonprofit organizations.
- Small, minority, women-owned businesses.
- Universities.
- Colleges.
- Research institutions.
- Hospitals.
- Community-based organizations.
- Faith-based organizations.
- Federally recognized Indian tribal governments.
- Indian tribes.
- Indian tribal organizations.
- State and local governments or their

Bona Fide Agents (this includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau).

- Political subdivisions of States (in consultation with States).

A Bona Fide Agent is an agency/organization identified by the state as eligible to submit an application under the state eligibility in lieu of a state application. If you are applying as a bona fide agent of a state or local government, you must provide a letter from the state or local government as documentation of your status. Place this documentation behind the first page of your application form.

III.2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Matching funds are not required for this program.

III.3. Other

If you request a funding amount greater than the ceiling of the award range, your application will be considered non-responsive, and will not be entered into the review process. You will be notified that your application did not meet the submission requirements.

Special Requirements

If your application is incomplete or non-responsive to the requirements listed in this section, it will not be entered into the review process. You will be notified that your application did not meet submission requirements.

- Late applications will be considered non-responsive. See section "IV.3. Submission Dates and Times" for more information on deadlines.

• 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.

Individuals Eligible to Become Principal Investigators: Any individual with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research is invited to work with their institution to develop an application for support. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are always encouraged to apply for CDC programs.

IV. Application and Submission Information

IV.1. Address to Request Application Package

To apply for this funding opportunity, use application form PHS 398 (OMB number 0925-0001 rev. 9/2004). Forms and instructions are available in an interactive format on the CDC Web site, at the following Internet address: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/forminfo.htm>.

Forms and instructions are also available in an interactive format on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Web site at the following Internet address: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>.

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) staff at: 770-488-2700. Application forms can be mailed to you.

IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission

Letter of Intent (LOI): Your LOI must be written in the following format:

- Maximum number of pages: 2.
- Font size: 12-point unspaced.
- Double spaced.
- Paper size: 8.5 by 11 inches.
- Page margin size: One inch.
- Printed only on one side of page.
- Written in plain language, avoid jargon.

Your LOI must contain the following information:

- Descriptive title of the proposed research.
- Name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, and FAX number of the Principal Investigator.

- Names of other key personnel.
- Participating institutions.
- Number and title of this Announcement.

Application: Follow the PHS 398 application instructions for content and formatting of your application. For further assistance with the PHS 398 application form, contact PGO-TIM staff at 770-488-2700, or contact Grants Info. Telephone (301) 435-0714, e-mail: GrantsInfo@nih.gov.

Your research plan should address activities to be conducted over the entire project period.

Preference will be given to applicants with a demonstrated relationship with two birthing hospitals with at least 1,500 deliveries per year as evidenced by letters of support and/or previous demonstrated successful collaboration. Place this documentation behind the first page of your application form.

You are required to have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to apply for a grant or cooperative agreement from the Federal government. Your DUNS number must be entered on line 11 of the face page of the PHS 398 application form. The DUNS number is a nine-digit identification number, which uniquely identifies business entities. Obtaining a DUNS number is easy and there is no charge. To obtain a DUNS number, access <http://www.dunandbradstreet.com> or call 1-866-705-5711. For more information, see the CDC Web site at: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/pubcomm1.htm>.

This announcement uses the non-modular budgeting format.

Additional requirements that may require you to submit additional documentation with your application are listed in section "VI.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements."

IV.3. Submission Dates and Times

LOI Deadline Date: June 13, 2005.

CDC requests that you send a LOI if you intend to apply for this program. Although the LOI is not required, not binding, and does not enter into the review of your subsequent application, the LOI will be used to gauge the level of interest in this program, and to allow CDC to plan the application review.

Application Deadline Date: June 27, 2005.

Explanation of Deadlines: LOIs must be received in the CDC Office of Public Health Research (OPHR) and Applications must be received in the CDC Procurement and Grants Office by 4 p.m. Eastern Time on the deadline date. If you submit your LOI and

application by the United States Postal Service or commercial delivery service, you must ensure that the carrier will be able to guarantee delivery by the closing date and time. If CDC receives your submission 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 submission as having been received by the deadline.

This announcement is the definitive guide on LOI and application content, submission address, and deadline. 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 you did not meet the submission requirements.

CDC will not notify you upon receipt of your submission. If you have a question about the receipt of your LOI or application, first contact your courier. If you still have a question concerning your LOI, contact the OPHR staff at 404-371-5277. If you still have a question concerning your application, contact the PGO-TIM staff at: 770-488-2700. Before calling, please wait two to three days after the submission deadline. This will allow time for submissions to be processed and logged.

IV.4. Intergovernmental Review of Applications

Your application is subject to Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, as governed by Executive Order (EO) 12372. This order sets up a system for state and local governmental review of proposed federal assistance applications. You should contact your state single point of contact (SPOC) as early as possible to alert the SPOC to prospective applications, and to receive instructions on your state's process. Click on the following link to get the current SPOC list: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html>.

IV.5. Funding Restrictions

Restrictions, which must be taken into account while writing your budget, are as follows:

- Funds relating to the conduct of research will not be released until the appropriate assurances and Institutional Review Board approvals are in place.
- Reimbursement of pre-award costs is not allowed.

If you are requesting indirect costs in your budget, you must include a copy of your indirect cost rate agreement. If your indirect cost rate is a provisional rate, the agreement should be less than 12 months of age.

IV.6. Other Submission Requirements

LOI Submission Address: Submit your LOI by express mail, delivery service, fax, or e-mail to: Mary Lerchen, DrPH, Scientific Review Administrator, CDC/Office of Public Health Research, One West Court Square, Suite 7000, MS D-72, telephone: 404-371-5277, Fax: 404-371-5215, e-mail: MLerchen@cdc.gov.

Application Submission Address: Submit the original and one hard copy of your application by mail or express delivery service to: Technical Information Management—RFA IP05-095, CDC Procurement and Grants Office, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341.

At the time of submission, four additional copies of the application, and all appendices must be sent to: Mary Lerchen, DrPH, Scientific Review Administrator, CDC/Office of Public Health Research, One West Court Square, Suite 7000, MS D-72, telephone: 404-371-5277, Fax: 404-371-5215, e-mail: MLerchen@cdc.gov.

Applications may not be submitted electronically at this time.

V. Application Review Information

V.1. 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 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.

The goals of CDC-supported research are to advance the understanding of biological systems, improve the control and prevention of disease and injury, and enhance health. In the written comments, reviewers will be asked to evaluate the application in order to judge the likelihood that the proposed research will have a substantial impact on the pursuit of these goals.

The scientific review group will address and consider each of the following criteria equally in assigning the application's overall score, weighting them as appropriate for each application. The application does not

need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact and thus deserve a high priority score. For example, an investigator may propose to carry out important work that by its nature is not innovative, but is essential to move a field forward.

The review criteria are as follows:

Significance: Does this study address an important problem? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field?

Approach: Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

Innovation: Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?

Investigator: Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers (if any)?

Environment: Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed experiments take advantage of unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support? Are letters of support included, if appropriate?

Additional Review Criteria: In addition to the above criteria, the following items will be considered in the determination of scientific merit and priority score: Preference will be given to applicants with a demonstrated relationship with two birthing hospitals with at least 1,500 deliveries per year as evidenced by letters of support and/or previous demonstrated successful collaboration.

Protection of Human Subjects from Research Risks: Does the application adequately address the requirements of Title 45, Part 46 for the protection of human subjects? The involvement of human subjects and protections from research risk relating to their participation in the proposed research will be assessed.

Inclusion of Women and Minorities in Research: Does the application adequately address the CDC Policy requirements regarding the inclusion of women, ethnic, and racial groups in the

proposed research? This includes: (1) The proposed plan for the inclusion of both sexes and racial and ethnic minority populations for appropriate representation; (2) the proposed justification when representation is limited or absent; (3) a statement as to whether the design of the study is adequate to measure differences when warranted; and (4) a statement as to whether the plans for recruitment and outreach for study participants include the process of establishing partnerships with community(ies) and recognition of mutual benefits.

Budget: The reasonableness of the proposed budget and the requested period of support in relation to the proposed research. The priority score should not be affected by the evaluation of the budget.

V.2. Review and Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed for completeness by the Procurement and Grants Office (PGO) and for responsiveness by the OPHR. Incomplete applications and applications that are non-responsive to the eligibility criteria will not advance through the review process. Applicants will be notified that their application did not meet submission requirements.

Preference will be given to applicants with a demonstrated relationship with two birthing hospitals with at least 1,500 deliveries per year as evidenced by letters of support and/or previous demonstrated successful collaboration. Place this documentation behind the first page of your application form.

Applications that are complete and responsive to the announcement will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by an appropriate peer review group or charter study section, a Special Emphasis Panel (SEP), convened by the OPHR in accordance with the review criteria listed above. As part of the initial merit review, all applications will:

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 - Receive a second programmatic level review by the Office of Science, National Immunization Program.
- Undergo a peer review by a Special Emphasis Panel (SEP). The SEP will be selected from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) pool of scientists or recommendations from the National Immunization Program to serve as reviewers on SEPs. Applications will be ranked for the secondary review

according to scores submitted by the SEP. Only those applications deemed to have the highest scientific merit by the review group, generally the top half of the applications under review, will be discussed and assigned a priority score.

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- Availability of funds.
- Programmatic priorities.

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Anticipated Award Date: August 31, 2005.

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The following additional requirements apply to this project:

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- AR-7 Executive Order 12372.
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- AR-11 Healthy People 2010.
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- AR-22 Research Integrity.
- AR-24 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Requirements.
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For general questions, contact: Technical Information Management Section, CDC Procurement and Grants Office, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341, telephone: 770-488-2700.

For scientific/research issues, contact: Susan Chu, PhD, MSPH, Extramural Program Official, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Immunization Program, MS E-05, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30333, telephone: 404-639-8727, e-mail: SChu@cdc.gov.

For questions about peer review, contact: Mary Lerchen, DrPH, Scientific Review Administrator, CDC/Office of Public Health Research, One West Court Square, Suite 7000, MS D-72, telephone: 404-371-5277, Fax: 404-371-5215, e-mail: MLerchen@cdc.gov.

For financial, grants management, or budget assistance, contact: Yolanda Ingram-Sledge, Grants Management Specialist, CDC Procurement and Grants Office, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341, telephone: 770-488-2787, e-mail: YSledge@cdc.gov.

VIII. Other Information

This and other CDC funding opportunity announcements can be found on the CDC Web site, Internet address: www.cdc.gov. Click on "Funding" then "Grants and Cooperative Agreements."

Dated: May 6, 2005.

William P. Nichols,

*Director, Procurement and Grants Office,
Centers for Disease Control.*

[FR Doc. 05-9457 Filed 5-11-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services; Community Services Block Grant Training and Technical Assistance Program: Special State Technical Assistance

Announcement Type: Initial.

Funding Opportunity Number: HHS-2005-ACF-OCS-EZ-0026.

CFDA Number: 93.569.

Due Date for Applications:

Application is due June 27, 2005.

Executive Summary: The Office of Community Services (OCS) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announces that competing applications will be accepted for a new grant pursuant to the Secretary's authority under section 674(b) of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Act, as amended, by the Community Opportunities, Accountability, and Training and Educational Services (COATES) Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-285).

The proposed grant program, the Special State Technical Assistance Program, will fund 12 to 15 State CSBG Lead Agencies and/or State Community Action Associations to develop and support interventions in cases where an eligible entity is in a crisis situation.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Under sections 674(b)(2)(B) and 678A, funds may be used by the Secretary to assist States in carrying out corrective action activities of the CSBG and monitoring to correct programmatic deficiencies of eligible entities. States are required to determine whether eligible entities meet the performance goals, administrative standards, financial management obligations and other requirements of the State. The CSBG legislation mandates that States offer to eligible entities training and technical assistance (T&TA), as appropriate, prior to any termination procedures. It also requires States to carry out corrective activities and to monitor all eligible entities at least every three years.

The CSBG Act requires States to conduct regular, on-site reviews of

eligible entities. When a State determines that an eligible entity has a deficiency that must be corrected, the CSBG legislation mandates that the State offer an eligible entity T&TA, if appropriate, to help correct such a deficiency. A State may support this T&TA with the CSBG funds remaining after it has made grants to eligible entities. However, OCS recognizes that, in some instances, the problem to be addressed may be of such a complex or pervasive nature that it cannot be adequately addressed with the resources available to the State CSBG Administrator.

In addition to the standard procedures outlined above, H.R. Rep. 108-636 (September 7, 2004) makes the following recommendation: "The Committee further encourages Training and Technical Assistance funding appropriated for fiscal year 2005 to be used for activities to carry out corrective action and monitoring activities (including the development of reporting systems and electronic data systems) to assist States in continuing to improve their local programs."

Definitions of Terms

The following definitions apply:

Community Action Agency (CAA)—refers to local-level organizations that are Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Eligible Entities (Section 673(1)(A))—the term "eligible entity" means an entity that is an eligible entity described in Section 673(1)(a) of the CSBG Act. They provide a number of types of assistance with the goals of reducing poverty and enabling low-income families to become economically self-sufficient.

Community Services Network—refers to the various organizations involved in planning and implementing programs funded through the CSBG or providing training, technical assistance or support to them. The network includes local CAAs and other eligible entities; State CSBG offices and their national association; CAA State, regional and national associations; and related organizations that collaborate and participate with CAAs and other eligible entities in their efforts on behalf of low-income people.

Cooperative Agreement—an award instrument of financial assistance when substantial involvement is anticipated between the awarding office, (the Federal government) and the recipient during performance of the contemplated project. Substantial involvement may include collaboration or participation by OCS staff in activities specified in the award and, as appropriate, decision-making at specified milestones related

to performance. The involvement may range from joint conduct of a project to OCS approval prior to the recipient's undertaking the next phase in a project.

Eligible Entities—(Section 673(1)(A))—an eligible entity as described in section 673(1)(A) of the CSBG Act (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the COATES Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998) or is designated by the process described in section 676A (including an organization serving migrant or seasonal farmworkers that is so described or designated) and has a tripartite board (Section 676B of the CSBG Act) or other mechanism described in the CSBG Act.

Special Note: Under the Act, CAAs are eligible entities; however not all eligible entities are CAAs. Throughout this announcement, the reference is to organizations defined in section 673(1)(A) of the CSBG Act whenever CAAs are mentioned.

Nationwide—refers to the scope of the technical assistance, training, data collection, or other capacity-building projects to be undertaken with grant funds. Nationwide projects must provide for the implementation of technical assistance, training or data collection for all or a significant number of States, and the CAAs and other local service providers who administer CSBG funds.

Non-profit Organization—refers to an organization, including faith-based or community-based, which meets the requirement for proof of non-profit status in the "Additional Information on Eligibility" section of this announcement and has demonstrated experience in providing training to individuals and organizations on methods of effectively addressing the needs of low-income families and communities.

Outcome Measures—are indicators that focus on the direct results one wants to have on customers and on communities.

Performance Measurement—is a tool used to assess how a program is accomplishing its mission through the delivery of products, services and activities.

Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) System—ROMA is a system that provides a framework for focusing on results for local agencies funded by the CSBG Program. It involves setting goals and strategies and developing plans and techniques that focus on a result-oriented performance based model for management.

State—means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Except