Supplement to CDC-RFA-PS19-1901, “Strengthening STD Prevention and Control for Health Departments”

An Outline Compiled by NCSD

Below is a brief description of what we know about the DIS Supplement based on the recently released NOFO, as well as key elements needed to develop a strong application. This is not an exhaustive list, but it meant to be a resource to help guide your application writing.

Important Dates and Notes:

- The funding will be released to jurisdictions BEFORE the application is due. Funding will be made available in June.
- Recipients are required to sign and submit an acknowledgement of receipt of the NOFO guidance as a Grant Note by Friday, June 11, 2021.
- Recipients must submit work plans, one-year hiring goals, and budgets through 12/31/21 within 60 days of receipt of funds.
- The deadline to submit applications is Friday, August 20, 2021.

Funding Information:

- These funds are in addition to existing PCHD funding.
- Recipients are encouraged to partner with and offer subawards to local and tribal jurisdictions.
- Recipients will be expected to provide the CDC with copies of and/or access to COVID-19 data collected and evaluations conducted with these funds.

Key items to consider in your application:

- Recipients should include in their workplans:
  - Hiring goals and priorities, including those of subrecipients
    - Include mitigation plans to address challenges in meeting goals
    - Identify the community-based organizations with whom they or subrecipients partner and the specific communities those partners support
  - Focus on how diversity, equity, and inclusion will be prioritized to hire and recruit workers from local communities
  - Brief overview of programmatic context and capacity to implement workforce development goals
  - Needs assessment (current organizational structure, staffing, staffing and skills gaps, training, training gaps, and outbreak response capacity)
    - Include organizational charts and policy and procedure documents at the state and local levels
• Required documents
  o Application for Federal Assistance 424 – one form for supplemental request
  o Budget Information 424a
  o Workplan and budget

Non-exhaustive list of allowable costs and activities:

“The focus of this funding is to build the DIS workforce to strengthen the capacity for STLT public health departments to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other infectious diseases more effectively.” Be creative about how you want to use these funds – as long as you can explicitly relate your ideas back to supporting the DIS workforce, they should be allowable. NCSD will be compiling and distributing additional resources with further ideas for how to use this funding.

• The costs, including wages and benefits of recruiting, hiring, training, and retaining disease investigation staff
  o These individuals may be employed by STLT public health departments, nonprofit private or public organizations, clinical settings, or community-based organizations
  o Other mechanisms to expand DIS workforce:
    ▪ COVID-19 Related Support Services (CRSS) contract mechanism through the General Services Administration (GSA) to obtain staff or services
    ▪ Veterans Employment Services
    ▪ Establishing partnerships with academic institutions to create internship and fellowship opportunities
    ▪ Using temporary staffing or employment agencies
• Purchase of equipment and supplies necessary to support DIS
  o PPE
  o Diagnostic tests – with 10% cap
  o Technology
  o Software and technological tools
  o Other equipment needed to perform the duties of the position
• Administrative support services, including travel, training, and certification
• Gap assessment
• Addressing community resilience needs to respond effectively to COVID-19 and other infectious diseases
• Subawards or contracts to tribal and local entities
• Training and education for new and existing staff
• Developing, training, and equipping staff to be ready to respond to COVID-19 and incident infections and outbreaks
• Hire and train a diverse workforce across all levels who are representative of, and have language competence for, the local communities they serve
• Systematic collection of information about the activities, characteristics, and outcomes of programs

About NCSD
National Coalition of STD Directors is a national organization representing health department STD directors, their support staff, and community-based organizations across 50 states, seven large cities, and eight US territories. NCSD advances effective STD prevention programs and services in every community across the country.

Contact
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