

CDC-RFA-TO23-0001: Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services in Indian Country

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Informational Conference Call

April 11 & 13, 2023 - **[POST CALLS UPDATE]**

Agenda

- General Information
- Eligibility and Responsiveness Requirements
- Program Overview
- Application Requirements
- Submission Process
- Review and Selection Process
- Key Dates and Resources
- Question and Answer Session

General Information

CDC-RFA-TO-23-0001 NOFO

Key Terms and Acronyms

- **CIO:** CDC's Centers, Institute, and Offices
- **NOA:** Notice of award
- **NOFO:** Notice of funding opportunity
- **Period of Performance:** Time during which a recipient may expend funding to complete approved work under the federal award
- **Budget Period or Budget Year:** Duration of each individual funding period within the period of performance
- **Public Health Infrastructure:** Systems, competencies, relationships, and resources that enable public health agencies to perform their core functions and essential services in every community

Letter of Intent (LOI)

- Preliminary, non-binding indication of an entity's intent to submit an application
- CDC uses LOIs to plan for the submission and review of applications
- For this NOFO, an LOI
 - Is requested but not required,
 - Should be written on official letterhead, and
 - Include the following information:
 1. Entity Type (List only one)
 2. HHS Region (List all that apply)
 3. IHS Area (**List all that apply**)

Letter of Intent (LOI), continued

4. **Up to two** of the Strategies listed on the logic model (see Section A.2a: Approach)
 5. **At least one** of the bold Outcomes listed on the logic model
- LOI should be submitted via email attachment by Friday, May 5th, 11:59 pm ET
 - To: Alleen Weathers
 - Email address: CSTLTSTribalCoAg@cdc.gov

Eligibility and Responsiveness Requirements

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Eligibility

- Competition is limited to the following:
 - Federally recognized American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribes
 - Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)
 - AI/AN tribal governments (federally recognized)
 - Regional AI/AN tribally designated organizations

Responsiveness

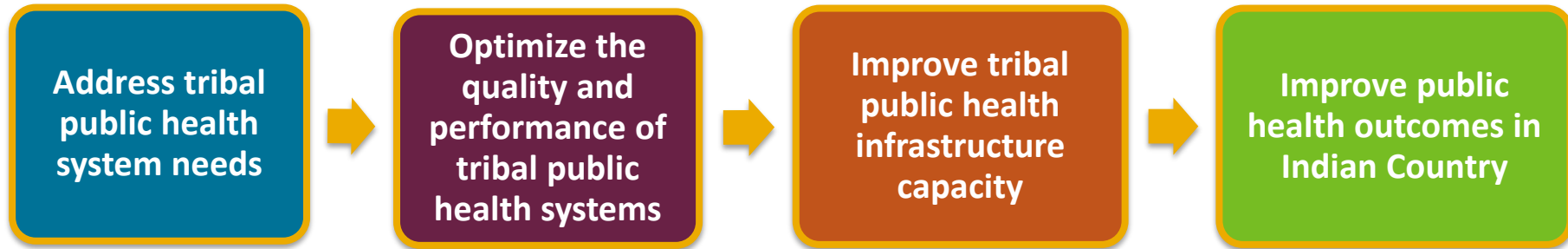
- Additional eligibility requirements
 - Federally recognized AI/AN Tribes **must** provide letter from currently elected tribal leader or a tribal resolution to demonstrate support from tribal leadership
 - Regional AI/AN tribally designated organizations **must** provide tribal resolutions or letters of support from currently elected tribal leaders from at least half of tribes within organization's service area
- Applications that do not meet “additional eligibility requirements” will be considered non-responsive.

Program Overview

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Purpose

- To strengthen the quality, performance, and infrastructure of tribal public health systems



Design



Approach: Logic Model

Strategies	Short-term Outcomes	Intermediate Outcomes	Long-term Outcomes
<p>Strategy 1: Foundational Public Health Capabilities implemented to strengthen the ability to conduct assessments/surveillance; prepare for and respond to public health emergencies; develop and support policies, communications, community partnership, organizational competencies, and accountability and performance management.</p>	<p>Improved capacity to develop public health programs and services to address prioritized public health activities in AI/AN communities.</p>	<p>Improved public health organizational and systems capacity in Indian Country.</p>	<p>Improved public health outcomes and reduced health inequities.</p>
<p>Strategy 2: Data Modernization activities to develop and deploy scalable, adaptable, and sustainable technologies, policies, and methods to implement data and analytical capabilities to support the Essential Public Health Services.</p>	<p>Improved capacity to implement public health programs and services to address prioritized public health activities in AI/AN communities.</p>	<p>Increased availability of/access to public health programs, services, and resources that address health disparities and/or social determinants of health in AI/AN communities.</p>	
<p>Strategy 3: Public Health Programs and Services implemented to strengthen the ability to comprehensively meet public health needs.</p>	<p>Improved capacity to evaluate public health programs and services to address prioritized public health activities in AI/AN communities.</p>		
<p>Strategy 4: Workforce activities to develop and maintain a diverse public health workforce with cross-cutting skills and competencies.</p>			

Approach: Strategies and Activities

- Applicants must select **no more than two** of the following strategies to address within their application:
 1. Foundational Public Health Capabilities
 2. Data Modernization
 3. Public Health Programs and Services
 4. Workforce
- CDC has provided examples of activities for each strategy; these activities are not required

Approach: Outcomes

- Applicants must select **at least one** of the following outcomes to address within their application:

1. Improved **capacity to develop** public health programs and services to address prioritized public health activities in AI/AN communities.
2. Improved **capacity to implement** public health programs and services to address prioritized public health activities in AI/AN communities.
3. Improved **capacity to evaluate** public health programs and services to address prioritized public health activities in AI/AN communities.

- Recipients are expected to achieve selected program outcome(s) and report on additional outcomes accomplished

Two-Part Funding Strategy

Period of Performance: 5 years (August 31, 2023–August 30, 2028)

Funding Strategy 1 – Base Funding

- **Year 1:** Responsive applications are objectively reviewed; initial funding awarded
- **Years 2-5:** Continuation applications for projects awarded in previous budget year(s)
- **12-month budget period**

Funding Strategy 2 – CIO Project Plans

- **Years 1-4:** CDC publishes supplemental NOFOs
- **Years 1-4:** Supplement applications are limited to **recipients of Funding Strategy 1** awards
- **Up to 12-month budget period** (*dependent on when notices of award are issued*)

Evaluation and Performance Measurement Strategy

- CDC expectations
 - Provide technical assistance to understand and implement the cooperative agreement requirements and meet program outcomes
 - Use information collected in recipient progress reports (frequency to be determined) and annual performance reports to document project status
- Recipient expectations
 - Track the implementation of strategies and activities
 - Determine the progress made in achieving outcomes
 - Submit a detailed Evaluation and Performance Measurement plan, if applicable
 - State a commitment to provide a Data Management Plan (DMP) post award if specific data generation and collection activities are planned

Evaluation and Performance Measurement

- The NOFO provides example performance measures to monitor progress towards reaching outcomes
 - **Process measures** track the implementation of strategies and activities
 - **Outcome measures** determine progress in achieving outcomes
- Measures should clearly align with the strategy(ies) and outcome(s), as defined in the NOFO and represented in the logic model

Application Requirements

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Documentation Requirements

- Submit the following information:
 - Table of Contents for Entire Submission
 - Project Abstract
 - Project Narrative
 - Background
 - Approach
 - Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan
 - Organizational Capacity of Applicant to Implement the Approach
 - Work Plan
 - Budget Narrative

Documentation Requirements, continued

- Submit the following information:
 - Tribal Support documentation – see “Section 2c.2: Additional Information on Eligibility” in the NOFO
 - Organizational chart(s)
 - Resumes/CVs
 - Position descriptions
 - Letters of support
 - Indirect cost rate, if applicable
 - Bona Fide Agent status documentation, if applicable
 - Report on programmatic, budgetary, and commitment overlap

Project Abstract

- Brief summary of proposed project including the purpose and outcomes
- Summary must not include any proprietary or confidential information
- Applicants must enter the summary in the “Project Abstract Summary” text box of the application

Project Narrative

- Background
- Approach
 - See “Section A.2a: Approach” of the NOFO
 - Applicants **must** identify the following information:
 - **Up to two** of the Strategies found on the Logic Model
 - **At least one** of the bold Outcomes found on the Logic Model
- Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan
 - See “Section A.2b: Evaluation and Performance Measurement” of the NOFO
 - Applicants **must** provide a statement of commitment to provide a DMP post award when specific data generation and collection activities are defined

Organizational Capacity of Applicant to Implement the Approach

- Included within the Project Narrative
- Demonstrates ability to execute the program strategies, implement activities, and achieve expected outcomes by describing the following:
 - General capacity
 - Current and recent programs
 - Procurement activities
 - Staffing and partnerships
 - Relationship with intended population (i.e., target population)

Organizational Capacity of Applicant to Implement the Approach, continued

- See “Section A.2c: Organizational Capacity of Recipients to Implement the Approach”
- Applicants **must** identify the following:
 - Entity Type (**List only one**)
 - Federally recognized AI/AN Tribe
 - Regionally tribally designated organization
 - HHS Region (**List all that apply**)
 - IHS Area (**List all that apply**)

Work Plan

- High-level plan for the 5-year period of performance and a detailed plan for the first budget year
- Plan based on the “Average One Year Award Amount” (i.e., \$200,000)
- Five-year Overview (Narrative) addresses progress throughout period of performance and identifies the following:
 - Up to two Strategies found on the Logic Model
 - At least one of the bold Outcomes found on the Logic Model

Work Plan, continued

- **One-Year Detailed Work Plan (table)**
 - Descriptive, detailed plan with specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely (S.M.A.R.T) objectives to support achievement of the chosen outcome(s)
 - Applicants are required to address **all bold** elements listed in the sample work plan

<u>Period of Performance Outcome:</u> <i>[from Outcomes section and/or logic model]</i>		<u>Outcome Measure:</u> <i>[from Evaluation and Performance Measurement section]</i>	
<i>Example 1: Improved capacity to implement public health programs and services to address prioritized public health activities in AI/AN communities.</i>		<i>Example 1: Increase in the number of quality improvement efforts undertaken by trained staff.</i>	
<u>Strategies and Activities</u>	<u>Process Measure</u> <i>[from Evaluation and Performance Measurement section]</i>	<u>Responsible Position/Party</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>
<i>1) Example: Foundational Public Health Capabilities - Accountability/Performance Management: Build and foster an organization-wide culture of quality improvement using nationally recognized frameworks and quality improvement tools and methods.</i>	<i>Percent of staff training in quality improvement methodology and tools.</i>	<i>Health Director</i>	<i>3/1/2026</i>
<i>2)</i>			

Budget Narrative

- Submit an itemized budget that is reasonable and consistent with the Project Narrative, including the following:
 - Salaries and wages
 - Fringe benefits
 - Consultant costs
 - Equipment
 - Supplies
 - Travel
 - Contractual costs
 - Other direct costs
 - Total direct costs
 - Total Indirect costs*
- *If applicable, submit an active indirect cost rate agreement

Submission Process

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Prior to Application Submission

- An entity must be registered at the three following locations before submitting an application for funding at www.grants.gov:
 1. System for Award Management (SAM)
 - Contact: www.SAM.gov
 - Can require up to 14 business days to process
 - Must be renewed annually
 2. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) formerly the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)
 - Generated as part of the SAM.gov registration

Prior to Application Submission, continued

3. Grants.gov

- Contact: www.grants.gov
- Requires UEI, SAM account, and Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- Takes up to eight weeks to be fully registered and approved in system

Other Requirements

- Submit all acceptable attachments in a PDF file format
- Submit **no more than one** application
 - If more than one application is submitted, the latest application submitted will be reviewed.
 - All applications after that will be deemed non-responsive.
- Submit application to www.grants.gov by **Tuesday, June 6th, 11:59 pm ET**

Review and Selection Process

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Review and Selection Process

- Applicants will be reviewed in three phases:
 - Phase I – Eligibility and responsiveness
 - Phase II – Objective review of responsive applications
 - Phase III – CDC funding priority and preferences
- Phase I Review
 - See Section 2C: Eligibility Information of the NOFO

Phase II Review Scoring Criteria

- A review panel will evaluate complete, eligible applications using the criteria below:
 - Approach (40 points): Develops a completed and comprehensive plan for the budget period that describes:
 - How the applicant will adequately achieved the selected Strategies and Outcomes
 - How the plan will focus on strengthening public health systems and services needs of the intended population (i.e., target population)
 - Evaluation and Performance Measurement (30 points)

Phase II Review Scoring Criteria, continued

- Applicant's Organizational Capacity to Implement the Approach (30 points)
- Budget (reviewed, but not scored): Extent to which proposed budget is allowable, reasonable, and consistent with the stated objectives and activities

Phase III Review: CDC Funding Preferences

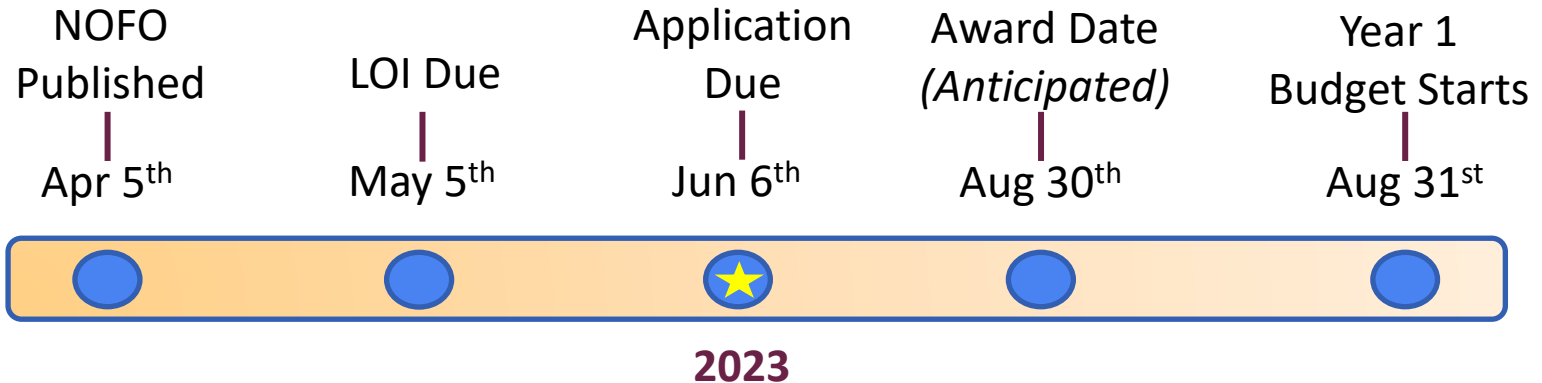
- CDC may fund out-of-rank order
- Preference will be given to applications that achieve geographic diversity

Key Dates and Resources

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Key Dates

- Letter of Intent (LOI): May 5th, 11:59 pm ET via CSTLTSTribalCoAg@cdc.gov
- Application Deadline: June 6th, 11:59 pm ET via www.grants.gov
- Anticipated Award Announcements
 - Funding Strategy 1: August 30, 2023
 - Funding Strategy 2: September/October 2023



Resources

- NOFO webpage: <https://www.cdc.gov/tribal/cooperative-agreements/indian-country-services/nofo.html>
- NOFO mailbox: CSTLTSTribalCoAg@cdc.gov
- HHS Regions:
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/iea/regional-offices/index.html>
- Grants.gov support:
 - Check for frequently asked questions at https://gditshared.servicenowservices.com/hhs_grants
 - Call 1-800-518-4726
 - Email support@grants.gov

Question and Answer Session

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CDC **24/7**

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