

invites the public to comment on this proposed information collection.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by October 20, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: Cynthia D. McMichael, Reports Clearance Officer, AHRQ, 540 Gaither Road, Suite 5022, Rockville, MD 20850.

Copies of the proposed collection plans, data collection instruments, and specific details on the estimated burden can be obtained from AHRQ's Reports Clearance Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia D. McMichael, AHRQ, Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 427-1651.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Project

“Surveys of Employee Benefit Managers of Large National Employers Concerning Dissemination Effectiveness

of Health Services Research Information (SEBM)”.

The SEBM is a series of two questionnaires and one telephone interview to learn the extent of awareness, use of, and satisfaction with the content of health services research information by employee benefits managers of large national employers. The surveys will also measure the effectiveness of the methods used to disseminate health services research information. The initial survey will serve as a benchmark against which the remaining two surveys in this study will be measured. Subsequent to the initial survey, AHRQ will initiate two interventions: (1) Placing AHRQ-sponsored information on a Web site and (2) making personal contact with employee benefits managers; a survey will follow each intervention to measure the extent to which each intervention makes employee benefit managers aware of AHRQ and its health research

information. With this knowledge, AHRQ will be able to make changes to its information dissemination efforts to make them more effective and responsive to employee benefit managers.

Data Confidentiality Provisions

Data collected by the contractor and the contractor's draft analyses will be retained for one year after final acceptance of all contract deliverables, unless longer retention is requested by the agency for audit purposes. All agency documents pertaining to the contract will be archived after the contract is completed and retained in accordance with a Federal Records Act retention schedule.

Methods of Collection

The data will be collected using a combination of web-based and telephone surveys.

ESTIMATED ANNUAL RESPONDENT BURDEN

Survey	Number of respondents	Estimated time per respondent in minutes	Estimated total burden hours	Estimated annual cost to the government
Initial Benchmark Survey	240	10	40	\$4000
Post Intervention Survey #1	45	10	7.5	750
Post Intervention Survey #2	240	10	40	4000
Total	525	10	87.5	8750

Request for Comments

In accordance with the above cited legislation, comments on AHRQ's information collection are requested with regard to any of the following: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of functions of AHRQ, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of AHRQ's estimate of burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information upon the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the proposed information collection. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 14, 2003.

Carolyn M. Clancy,
Director.

[FR Doc. 03-21296 Filed 8-19-03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4160-90-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Program Announcement 03110]

Enhancement of Laboratory Quality Assurance Programs for HIV/AIDS Testing in Countries Supported by the Global AIDS Program; Notice of Intent To Fund Single Eligibility Award

A. Purpose

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the intent to fund fiscal year (FY) 2003 funds for a cooperative agreement program for the enhancement of national laboratory quality assurance programs supporting HIV/AIDS testing for surveillance and prevention activities in countries supported by the Global AIDS Program

(GAP). The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this program is 93.939.

B. Eligible Applicant

Assistance will be provided only to the National Serology Reference Laboratory (NRL) in the Country of Australia. This announcement is restricted to the Australia NRL because it is a unique agency charged by the World Health Organization (WHO) with providing External Quality Assessment Schemes (EQAS), training, and technical assistance for HIV/AIDS laboratory testing to 100 national and regional reference laboratories in the Asia region and South Pacific.

C. Funding

Approximately \$150,000 is available in FY 2003 to fund this award. It is expected that the award will begin on or before September 15, 2003, and will be made for a 12-month budget period within a project period of up to three years. Funding estimates may change.

D. Where To Obtain Additional Information

For general comments or questions about this announcement, contact:

Technical Information Management, CDC Procurement and Grants Office, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341-4146, Telephone: 770-488-2700.

For technical questions about this program, contact: Thomas L. Hearn, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Division of Laboratory Systems, PHPPPO, 4770 Buford Highway, MS-G25, Atlanta, GA 30341-3717, Telephone: (770)-488-8282.

Dated: August 14, 2003.

Sandra R. Manning,

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

[FR Doc. 03-21264 Filed 8-19-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Program Announcement 03162]

Expansion of HIV/AIDS/STD Monitoring, Evaluation and Other Program Support in the Government of Brazil; Notice of Intent to Fund Single Eligibility Award

A. Purpose

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the intent to fund fiscal year (FY) 2003 funds for a cooperative agreement program for the improvement and expansion of HIV/AIDS/STD prevention and support activities in Brazil. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this program is 93.941.

B. Eligible Applicant

Assistance will be provided only to the Foundation for the Scientific and Technological Development in Health (FIOTEC). The Brazilian Government has conducted the National response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Brazil primarily through the Ministry of Health division referred to as the National Coordination of STDs and HIV (CN DST-HIV). This coordination has been supported both by the Ministry of Finance and two World Bank Loans/Grants, a third three-year loan is currently being implemented FY 2003. The CN DST-HIV receives its only funding directly from the Ministry of Finance, there is no fiscal unit or mechanism to receive or manage direct funding from other donor agencies.

In 1999, the Brazilian Ministry of Health (MOH) requested the Global AIDS Program (GAP) to conduct a needs assessment of their National AIDS Program. As a result of this assessment the Brazilian MOH invited the Global Aids Program to provide technical assistance to the National Coordination for Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS Program in Brazil (CN DST/AIDS). The CN DST-HIV implements its strategic plan through a number of governmental and non-governmental agencies, including Federal Universities. These partner organizations often provide a variety of technical, programmatic and management services to the National Coordination. One such organization is FIOTEC.

FIOTEC is a foundation that draws on the collective body of Health Researchers from a group of research institutes called the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, or FIOCRUZ. There are a number of these institutes located across the country working in close collaboration with Federal, State and Municipal Health offices. These research institutes work in areas of applied research of infectious diseases control and public health management.

FIOTEC also is a management organization with a strong fiscal unit that manages several international grant awards to the Government of Brazil. The foundation has an established record of transparent fiscal management with international grants that could avail its services to manage this cooperative agreement. To date, HHS/CDC/GAP has not worked with this foundation.

HHS/CDC/GAP and the CN DST-HIV are currently entering into a joint collaboration, through a Memorandum of Understanding, that is designed to assist them in building a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit and to further scale up these activities at the State and Municipal levels of Government.

As noted above, the CN DST/AIDS is the only organization that can carry out these activities. However, the CN DST/AIDS has no financial mechanism for the direct receipt of funds. It has no fiscal unit and cannot enter into a direct cooperative agreement with GAP Brazil or any other agency. Presently, the CN DST/AIDS receives funds from the Ministry of Health in three ways (1) directly from the Ministry of Finance (2) through an agreement with the United Nations, and (3) through a cooperative agreement with MOH/FIOTEC.

FIOTEC/FIOCRUZ has been identified by the MOH/CN DST/AIDS as the domestic organization to assist in this effort and would benefit in the long

term from CDC's expertise to institutionalize these methodologies of Monitoring and Evaluation. Therefore, after much examination and negotiation to find the best mechanism to initiate and manage this CDC Cooperative Agreement—the Ministry of Health has determined that the only mechanism to operationalize this Cooperative Agreement between them and HHS/CDC/GAP is through FIOTEC.

C. Funding

Approximately \$1,000,000 is available in FY 2003 to fund this award. It is expected that the award will begin on or before September 15, 2003, and will be made for a 12-month budget period within a project period of up to four years. Funding estimates may change. None of these funds may be used to support travel to or from or activities in Cuba.

D. Where to Obtain Additional Information

For general comments or questions about this announcement, contact: Technical Information Management, CDC Procurement and Grants Office, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341-4146, Telephone: 770-488-2700.

For technical questions about this program, contact: William E. Brady, Global AIDS Program (GAP), Brazil Country Team, National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Brazil-CDC AIDS Project Team, CN DST/AIDS, Brasilia, Brazil, Telephone: 55-61 273-4851, e-mail: web0@cdc.gov.

Dated: August 14, 2003.

Sandra R. Manning,

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

[FR Doc. 03-21265 Filed 8-19-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Program Announcement 03147]

Improving HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Prevention and Control Activities in the Ethiopian Federal Democratic Republic Ministry of Health; Notice of Intent to Fund Single Eligibility Award

A. Purpose

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the intent to fund fiscal year (FY) 2003 funds for a cooperative agreement program for