



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Solicitation NO: DRAFT-674-11-0038

Posted Date: April 05, 2011

Closing Date: April 29, 2011

Subject: PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

TITLE: South Africa Comprehensive Clinical HIV-Related Service, Support and Capacity Development, in-line with South African national, provincial and district policies, standards and implementation plans

I. OVERVIEW

USAID/Southern Africa announces its intent to compete a Request for Applications (RFA) for the program described below in the future. USAID/Southern Africa would like to invite comments now from the public regarding the technical and other requirements of this program described below. USAID/Southern Africa is currently evaluating its current program and engaging in further design for this new program, but desires to obtain feedback from the public to help finalize the design of the RFA that it intends to publish in the future. The technical requirements, level of funding and other requirements may be significantly changed before the intended RFA is published. **ONCE AGAIN, THIS IS NOT A REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS. ONLY COMMENTS, NO APPLICATIONS, SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AT THIS TIME.**

II. PURPOSE

As PEPFAR/SA is transitioning emphasis from direct service support to technical assistance, this program will facilitate a smooth transition of models of support, with assurance on supporting high quality of care, improved patient outcomes and effective management systems. The purpose of this program is to support comprehensive clinical HIV-related services and capacity development in-line with South African national, provincial and district policies, standards and implementation plans. As a function of health systems strengthening (HSS), programs will include support for HIV-related services, management systems, human capacity development, information systems (including Health Management Information Systems), and operations research. Programs will directly respond to the Partnership Framework strategy and implementation plan agreement between the South African government and United States government PEPFAR program in South Africa.

III. ANTICIPATED LEVEL OF FUNDING

Subject to the availability of funds, USAID intends to provide up to approximately \$700,000,000 to be allocated over a 5-year period. USAID anticipates awarding multiple cooperative agreements as a result of this solicitation.

IV. TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

The program will build and capitalize on the accomplishments and lessons learned since the national ARV rollout began in 2004. Successful applicants will demonstrate an effective level of collaboration, coordination and integration of policy, technical approaches, programs and stakeholder and partner relationships in accordance with the Government of South Africa's HIV/AIDS strategy, SAG policy, procedures and guidelines.

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The program will focus on institutionalization of routine and consistent use of systems designed to improve efficiencies in district level management that ultimately improve patient outcomes and public health. Recipients will support SAG national, provincial and district plans through assistance in the following areas:

- 1) Strategic support for comprehensive HIV-related services through improved health and patient management systems resulting in enhanced patient outcomes;
- 2) Enhance capacity within District and Provincial Management related to HIV and related service planning, implementation and monitoring;
- 3) Policy development, support and implementation; and
- 4) Strategic measurement of standards of practice and innovative approaches that can be directly translated to improved program delivery.

This program will transition recipient focus from direct service provision to strengthening district and provincial health systems; however, there will be a need for limited direct clinical service assistance. Technical assistance and capacity building will be major components of new award program activities in support of district, provincial and national plans. An emphasis on the alignment of recipient capacity and resources at the district level will: 1) facilitate the effective roll out of ARVs and related services to PHCs; 2) provide a framework for efficient mentorship and supervision to service providers, particularly nurses; 3) allow for strategic collaboration and coordination with provincial and district-level managers responsible for the management and delivery of HIV-related services at these facilities; and 4) enhance local ownership and sustainability of facility-based HIV interventions, in line with the NDOH strategies, PEPFAR Partnership Framework objectives, and Global Health Initiative (GHI) priorities.

Recipients will provide strategic support to facilities, focusing on management efficiencies and mentorship in the following areas:

- Adult Care and Treatment services;
- Pediatric Care and Treatment services;
- PICT/HCT;
- PMTCT;
- TB/HIV;
- Prevention with Positives
- Facilitate access to services for Most at Risk Populations (MARPS);
- Male Circumcision (where designated by the Agency and Province);
- Nurse Initiated Management of ART (NIMART);
- Post-exposure prophylaxis access and provision;
- Cervical cancer screening;
- Linkages to community social mobilization and health promotion efforts and facility-based services to ensure effective implementation of referral, tracking, and adherence strategies;
- Linkages to STI, MCH and reproductive health services;
- District, provincial and national management capacity building; and
- Other HSS activities.

V. SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

USAID/Southern Africa expects that local (defined below) non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private voluntary organizations (PVOs), and for-profit companies willing to forego profit will be eligible. Faith-based and community organizations that fit the criteria above are also eligible to apply. In support of the Agency's interest in fostering a larger assistance base and expanding the number and sustainability of development partners, USAID encourages applications from potential new partners.

a. Local Partner Definition

A "local partner" may be an individual or sole proprietorship or a legal entity of any type. To be considered an eligible local partner for the purposes of the intended RFA, the partner must meet the criteria under paragraphs (1), (2) or (3) below:

- 1) an individual must be a citizen or lawfully admitted permanent resident of and have his/her principal place of business in the Republic of South Africa, and a sole proprietorship must be owned by such an individual; or
- 2) a for profit entity (e.g., a corporation or partnership): (a) must be incorporated or legally organized under the laws of, and have its principal place of business in the Republic of South Africa; (b) must be at least 51% beneficially owned and controlled by individuals who are citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents of the Republic of South Africa, per sub-paragraph (2)(a), or by other corporations, partnerships or other arrangements that are local partners under this paragraph or paragraph (3) or (4); and (c) where an entity has a Board of Directors, at least 51% of the members of the Board must also be citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents of the Republic of South Africa; or
- 3) a not for profit entity: (a) must be legally organized and recognized under the laws of, and have its principal place of business in the Republic of South Africa; (b) must be at least 51% beneficially controlled by individuals who are citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents of the Republic of South Africa, per sub-paragraph (3)(a), or by entities that are local partners under this paragraph or paragraph (2); and (c) at least 51% of the entity's senior staff (i.e., managerial and professional personnel) must be citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents of the Republic of South Africa.

b. Additional Exclusion

In order to avoid duplication and/or overlap in having USAID and CDC fund the same organizations, organizations that currently or will receive any funding from CDC, as a prime or sub-partner, and such funding is scheduled to extend beyond September 30, 2012 will not be eligible to receive funds from USAID, either as a prime or sub-partner, under this subject RFA.

c. Limitation on Sub-Awards

Regardless of who the recipient is, no more than 10% of the total estimated value of any agreement may be sub-awarded to organizations that do not meet the definition of local set forth above.

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide comments and other feedback to by no later than April 29, 2010:

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