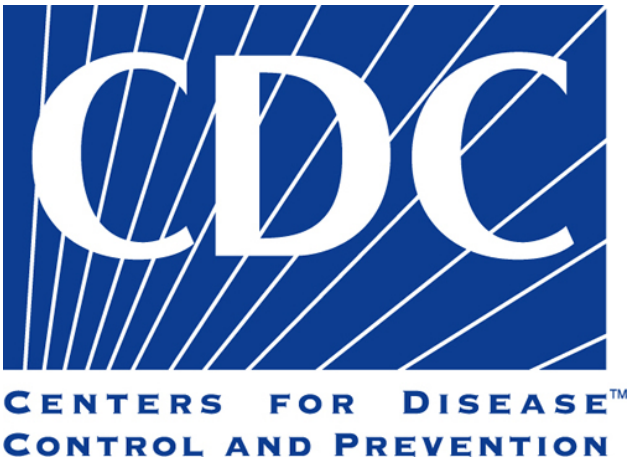


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support

National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities

CDC-RFA-OT21-2103

05/03/2021

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Part I. Overview

Applicants must go to the synopsis page of this announcement at www.grants.gov and click on the "Subscribe" button link to ensure they receive notifications of any changes to CDC-RFA-OT21-2103. Applicants also must provide an e-mail address to www.grants.gov to receive notifications of changes.

A. Federal Agency Name:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) / Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

B. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Title:

National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities

C. Announcement Type: New - Type 1:

This announcement is only for non-research activities supported by CDC. If research is proposed, the application will not be considered. For this purpose, research is defined at https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2007-title42-vol1/pdf/CFR-2007-title42-vol1-sec52-2.pdf. Guidance on how CDC interprets the definition of research in the context of public health can be found at https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/regulations/45-cfr-46/index.html (See section 45 CFR 46.102(d)).

D. Agency Notice of Funding Opportunity Number:

CDC-RFA-OT21-2103

E. Assistance Listings Number:

93.391

F. Dates:

1. Due Date for Letter of Intent (LOI):

03/26/2021

2. Due Date for Applications:
05/03/2021
11:59 p.m. U.S. Eastern Standard Time, at www.grants.gov.

3. Due Date for Informational Conference Call:
CDC will host *two* informational conference calls for potential applicants:

Date: 03/30/2021

Times: 3:00pm to 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time
and
6:00pm to 7:00pm Eastern Standard Time

Meeting Details:
Join ZoomGov Meeting
https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/16040976381?pwd=NmNjdFcrQlFVSjVPZ25nR0dHay9zdz09

Meeting ID: 160 4097 6381
Passcode: OT21-2103
One tap mobile
+16692545252,,16040976381#,,,,,,0#,,708148093# US (San Jose)
+16468287666,,16040976381#,,,,,,0#,,708148093# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose)
+1 646 828 7666 US (New York)
+1 669 216 1590 US (San Jose)
+1 551 285 1373 US
Meeting ID: 160 4097 6381
Passcode: 708148093
Find your local number: https://cdc.zoomgov.com/u/advmPjIAqk

Join by SIP
16040976381@sip.zoomgov.com

Join by H.323
161.199.138.10 (US West)
161.199.136.10 (US East)
Meeting ID: 160 4097 6381
Passcode: 708148093

G. Executive Summary:

1. Summary Paragraph
The *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* (P.L. 116-260), which contained the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021* (P.L. 116-260, Section 2, Division M) provided, in part, funding for strategies to improve testing capabilities and other COVID-19 response activities in populations that are at high-risk and underserved, including racial and

ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities. Strategies also include those to develop or identify best practices for states and public health officials to use for contact tracing.

To achieve these purposes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is announcing a non-competitive grant CDC-RFA-OT21-2103 titled "National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities." This grant will provide funding to address COVID-19 and advance health equity (e.g., through strategies, interventions, and services that consider systemic barriers and potentially discriminatory practices that have put certain groups at higher risk for diseases like COVID-19) in racial and ethnic minority groups and rural populations within state, local, US territorial, and freely associated state health jurisdictions.

a. Eligible Applicants:
Open Competition

b. Funding Instrument Type:
G (Grant)

c. Approximate Number of Awards
108

d. Total Period of Performance Funding:
$ 2,250,000,000
All funding will be disbursed during year one with a total performance period of two years.

e. Average One Year Award Amount:
$ 0
Funding will vary by jurisdiction category. Average one-year award amount by applicant type:

- State Health Department: $32,000,000
- Local Health Departments Serving a County or City with a Population of ≥2 Million: $26,000,000
- Local Health Departments Serving a City with a Population of 400,000 or more, but less than 2 Million: $5,000,000
- US Territories and Freely Associated States: $3,000,000

f. Total Period of Performance Length:
2

g. Estimated Award Date:
June 01, 2021

h. Cost Sharing and / or Matching Requirements:
No
Cost sharing or matching funds are not required for this program. Although no statutory matching requirement for this NOFO exists, leveraging other resources and related ongoing efforts to promote sustainability is strongly encouraged.

Part II. Full Text

A. Funding Opportunity Description

1. Background

a. Overview

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has disproportionately affected populations placed at higher risk and who are medically underserved, including racial and ethnic minority groups, and people living in rural communities who are at higher risk of exposure, infection, hospitalization, and mortality. Additionally, racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities have disproportionate rates of chronic diseases that increase the severity of COVID-19 infection and might experience barriers to accessing testing, treatment, or vaccination against the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), which causes COVID-19.

To reduce the burden of COVID-19 among populations disproportionately affected, it is imperative that state, local, US territorial, and freely associated state health departments (or their bona fide agents) work collaboratively and develop partnerships with key partners who have existing community or social service delivery programs for African American, Hispanic, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Native American or other racial and ethnic minority groups or people living in rural communities. Such key partners may include:

- Community-based and civic organizations;
- Tribes, tribal organizations;
- Academic institutions, and universities (e.g., minority serving institutions – Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACUs), American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC),Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs);
- Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AAPI);
- Faith-based organizations;
- Non-governmental organizations;
- Correctional facilities and institutions;
- Local governmental agencies and community leaders;
- Local businesses and business community networks and organizations, (e.g., employers, local chambers of commerce, small business community groups);
- Social services providers and organizations, including those that address social determinants of health (e.g., community transportation; anti-discrimination organizations; legal services);
- Health care providers, including community health centers (e.g., federally qualified health centers, (FQHCs);
- Health-related organizations, (e.g., pharmacies, testing centers, community health workers);
- State Offices of Rural Health (SORH) or equivalent, State Rural Health Associations (SRHAs);
- Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs); and
- Governmental organizations focused on non-health services (e.g., Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility – Department of Transportation, Supportive housing for the elderly – Housing and Urban Development).

To reach populations at higher risk, underserved, and disproportionately affected, including racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities, it is critical for funded recipients and key partners to implement a coordinated and holistic approach that builds on culturally, linguistically, and locally tailored strategies and best practices to reduce COVID-19 risk. In addition, a coordinated and holistic approach is essential to building and sustaining trust, ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 related services, and advancing health equity to address COVID-19 related health disparities among populations at higher risk, underserved, and disproportionately affected .[1]

b. Statutory Authorities

Section 317(k)(2) of the Public Health Service Act [42 USC 247b(k)(2), as amended] and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260), which contained the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260, Section 2, Division M, Title III).

c. Healthy People 2030

This emergency funding opportunity focuses on emergency preparedness and response foundational capability and addresses the "*Healthy People 2030*" focus areas of Preparedness, Vaccination, Health Communication, Respiratory Disease, Infectious Disease, Public Health Infrastructure, and Social Determinants of Health.

For specific objectives within these topic areas, please visit www.healthypeople.gov.

d. Other National Public Health Priorities and Strategies

- Executive Order on Ensuring an Equitable Pandemic Response and Recovery (EO13995)
- Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government (EO13985)
- National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness (see Goal 6)
- CDC COVID-19 Response Health Equity Strategy: Accelerating Progress Towards Reducing COVID-19 Disparities and Achieving Health Equity
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Recommendations and Guidance for state, local, territorial and tribal health departments

e. Relevant Work

This NOFO is complementary and non-duplicative of the following CDC program activities, public health priorities, and strategies:

- CDC-RFA-CK19-1904: 2019 Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC)
- ELC Enhancing Detection Emerging Issues (E) Project: Funding for the Enhanced Detection, Response, Surveillance, and Prevention of COVID-19 - Supplement
- CDC-RFA-OT18-1802: Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services Through National Partnerships to Improvement and Protect the Nation's Health

2. CDC Project Description

a. Approach

Bold indicates period of performance outcome.

Due to the nature of this grant and public health crisis, there is not a predetermined logic model. It is expected that funds from this grant will be used to strengthen public health infrastructure, preparedness and response capabilities and services in state, local, US territorial and freely associated state health departments (or their bona fide agents) to address COVID-19 related health disparities and advance health equity in underserved and disproportionately affected populations through testing, contact tracing and other mitigation strategies. All applicants must define the populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19 within their respective jurisdiction, describe how they will reach these populations, and describe their experience working with communities that are underserved and at higher risk for COVID-19 disparities and health inequities.

Recipients will be required to include a financial carve out for rural communities, as applicable. As such, applicants who serve rural communities must define these communities and describe how they will provide direct support (e.g., funding, programs, or services) to those communities in their applications. State government applicants must also engage their State Office of Rural Health (SORH) or equivalent, in planning and implementing their activities and describe in their application how their SORHs or equivalent will be involved. To that end, CDC recommends state government applicants engage their respective SORH or equivalent, early in the application process. Contact information for SORHs can be found at: https://nosorh.org/nosorh-members/nosorh-members-browse-by-state/.

In addition, applicants are strongly encouraged to develop partnerships and collaborate with key partners who have existing community or social service delivery programs for African American, Hispanic, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Native American or other racial and ethnic minority groups or people living in rural communities. Such key partners may include:

- Community-based and civic organizations;
- Tribes, tribal organizations;
- Academic institutions, and universities (e.g., minority serving institutions – Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACUs), American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC),Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs);
- Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AAPI);
- Faith-based organizations;
- Non-governmental organizations;
- Correctional facilities and institutions;
- Local governmental agencies and community leaders;
- Local businesses and business community networks and organizations, (e.g., employers, local chambers of commerce, small business community groups);
- Social services providers and organizations, including those that address social determinants of health (e.g., community transportation; anti-discrimination organizations; legal services);
- Health care providers, including community health centers (e.g., federally qualified health centers, (FQHCs);

- Health-related organizations, (e.g., pharmacies, testing centers, community health workers);
- State Offices of Rural Health (SORH) or equivalent, State Rural Health Associations (SRHAs);
- Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs); and
- Governmental organizations focused on non-health services (e.g., Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility – Department of Transportation, Supportive housing for the elderly – Housing and Urban Development).

Through this collaborative approach, applicants will be better able to maximize the impact of their federal COVID-19 funding, strengthen implementation of strategies and activities, and align resources to better match the burden of COVID-19 among populations who are at higher risk and are underserved. This collaboration must be described in the application.

Applicants are encouraged to establish new funding relationships with partners and community organizations and may also continue funding relationships with partners and community organizations that have experience working with communities most affected by COVID-19 and have the capacity to implement strategies and activities outlined in this NOFO. To ensure resources reach the areas of greatest need, all applicants are strongly encouraged to use local epidemiologic, surveillance, and other available data sources to inform local resource allocation and program efforts, including program planning, implementation, and evaluation.

i. Purpose

Address COVID-19-related health disparities and advance health equity by expanding state, local, US territorial and freely associated state health department capacity and services to prevent and control COVID-19 infection (or transmission) among populations at higher risk and that are underserved, including racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities.

ii. Outcomes

The intended outcomes for this grant are:

1. Reduced COVID-19-related health disparities.
2. Improved and increased testing and contact tracing among populations at higher risk and that are underserved, including racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities.
3. Improved state, local, US territorial and freely associated state health department capacity and services to prevent and control COVID-19 infection (or transmission) among populations at higher risk and that are underserved, including racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities.

iii. Strategies and Activities

This grant program will address COVID-19-related health disparities and advance health equity by expanding state, local, US territorial and freely associated state health department capacity and services to prevent and control COVID-19 infection (or transmission) among populations at higher risk and that are underserved, including racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities. All strategies should aim to build infrastructures that both address disparities in the current COVID-19 pandemic and set the foundation to address future responses.

The program is composed of *four* overarching strategies:

1. Expand existing and/or develop new mitigation and prevention resources and services to reduce COVID-19 related disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved: Ensuring equitable access to critical COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE), testing, contact tracing, quarantine and isolation, vaccination, and other wrap-around services require deploying focused strategies, resources, and activities to meet the needs of individuals and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among populations disproportionately impacted.
Priority activities for *Strategy 1* should include:

- Expand testing (including home test kits and mobile testing sites) and contact tracing among populations at higher risk and that are underserved, including racial and ethnic minority populations and people living in rural communities;

Additional activities may include but are not limited to:

- Vaccine coordination, quarantine and isolation options, and preventive care and disease management among populations that are underserved and at higher risk for COVID-19
- Tailor and adapt evidence-based policies, systems, and environmental strategies to mitigate social and health inequities related to COVID-19
- Identify and establish collaborations with critical partners affiliated with populations at higher risk and that are underserved, including racial and ethnic minority groups at higher risk for COVID-19 to:1) connect community members to programs, healthcare providers, services and resources (e.g., transportation, housing support, food assistance programs, mental health and substance abuse services, substance abuse) they might need and 2) lessen adverse effects of mitigation strategies

2. Increase/improve data collection and reporting for populations experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 infection, severe illness, and death to guide the response to the COVID-19 pandemic: Improving data systems and the collection, analysis, and use of racial, ethnic, and rural health data for COVID-19 prevention and control will help to better identify populations and communities disproportionately affected, track resource distribution, and evaluate the effectiveness of advancing health equity to address COVID-19-related health disparities among disproportionately affected populations. Collection of data that contextualize racial, ethnic, and rural health data and robust analysis of these data are fundamental activities for improving data collection and reporting.

Priority activities for *Strategy 2* should include:

- Improve data collection and reporting for testing and contact tracing for populations at higher risk and that are underserved;

Additional activities may include but are not limited to:

- Build on plans for collecting and reporting timely, complete, representative, and relevant data on testing, incidence, vaccination, and severe outcomes by detailed race and ethnicity categories, taking into account age and sex differences between groups

- Develop strategies to educate providers, community partners, and programs on: 1) the importance of the race and ethnicity data and appropriate strategies to collect it: 2) how to address mistrust/hesitancy about reporting personal information including race and ethnicity, and 3) why this information is important to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19
- Develop and implement plans to disseminate health equity-related data and related materials tailored to be culturally and linguistically responsive for diverse audiences
- Develop key principles and resources for collecting, analyzing, reporting, and disseminating health equity-related data to inform action during a public health emergency
- Assure adequate resources for data infrastructure and workforce to ensure alignment with data modernization

3. Build, leverage, and expand infrastructure support for COVID-19 prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk and underserved: Sufficient workforce, infrastructure, and capacity are critical to providing equitable access to disproportionately affected populations. Where feasible, this short-term program will build, leverage, and expand the infrastructure and capacity within state, local, US territorial and freely associated state health departments (or their bona fide agents) to ensure and expand equitable access to critical COVID-19 testing and contact tracing, as well as PPE, quarantine and isolation, vaccination, and other wrap-around and supportive services.
Priority activities for *Strategy 3* should include:

- Expand the infrastructure to improve testing and contact tracing among populations at higher risk and that are underserved, including racial and ethnic minority populations and rural communities;

Additional activities may include but are not limited to:

- Establish, enhance, or implement leadership-level health equity offices, workgroups, task forces, or positions to guide addressing COVID-19 among communities at higher risk and that are underserved
- Convene and facilitate multi-sector coalitions or advisory groups that include members of underserved communities and organizations that serve the community. These groups may provide advice, guidance, and recommendations for addressing COVID-19 and advancing health equity among their communities
- Update jurisdictions' COVID-19 plans and health equity plans to support communities most at risk for COVID-19 with the intention of setting up systems that put in place infrastructures and plans that can also support future emergency responses
- Build and expand an inclusive public health workforce, including hiring people from the community (e.g., community health workers, social workers, other trusted community members) who are equipped to assess and address the needs of communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19

4. Mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 health disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved: Identifying and addressing current gaps and factors that influence COVID-19-related health disparities requires a collaborative approach. Under this

strategy, collaborations between the primary applicant and key partners will broadly address health disparities and inequities related to COVID-19. (Please refer to Approach section of NOFO for a list of recommended key partners.)
Priority activities for Strategy 4 should include:

- Build community capacity to reach disproportionately affected populations with effective culturally and linguistically tailored programs and practices for testing and contact tracing, and quarantine, including racial and ethnic minority populations and rural communities;

Additional activities may include but are not limited to:

- Build and implement cross-sectoral partnerships to align public health, healthcare, and non-health (e.g., housing, transportation, social service) interventions that decrease risk for COVID-19
- Develop mechanisms such as community advisory groups that include leaders representing racial and ethnic minority groups and rural community leaders and members representing underserved populations to inform COVID-19 and future emergency response activities
- Develop and disseminate culturally and linguistically responsive COVID-19 prevention communications through various channels (e.g., local media, local or community newspapers, radio, TV, trusted communications agents) written in plain language and in formats and languages suitable for diverse audiences—including people with disabilities, limited English proficiency, etc.—addressing and, as necessary, dispelling of misinformation and barriers to mitigation practices due to mistrust.
- Build community capacity that includes traditional organizations (e.g., public health, healthcare) and non-traditional partners (e.g., community health workers, churches, transportation providers, social workers) to reach disproportionately affected populations with effective culturally and linguistically tailored programs and practices for testing, contact tracing, isolating, vaccination, and healthcare strategies
- Identify and establish collaborations with critical partners affiliated with and who provide services to populations that are underserved and at higher risk for COVID-19 to disseminate scientifically accurate, culturally, and linguistically responsive information and facilitate access to health-related services

Applicants are not required to implement all four strategies, but rather they should select the strategies and activities that best address their jurisdiction's respective priorities and needs. Strategies should engage representatives of populations and communities to be served by this NOFO. CDC will also allow applicants to propose additional strategies and activities beyond those included in the NOFO to best achieve local outcomes. Any proposed new strategy or activity should include the rationale for the approach or a brief justification with evidence showing why it should be included. Applicants should not propose to allocate all funding to one activity (e.g. all funding will be used for one vaccination or testing event only).

1. Collaborations

a. With other CDC programs and CDC-funded organizations:

Recipients are encouraged to collaborate, as appropriate, with CDC programs and centers, institutes, and offices (CIOs) to ensure that activities and funding are coordinated with, complementary of, and not duplicative of efforts supported under other CDC programs that support COVID-19 response.

To facilitate the identification and sharing of best practices, program evaluation, training, tool development, and communications of findings, recipients may receive tailored technical assistance from select national or regional partner organizations funded through CDC-RFA-OT18-1802: *Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services through National Partnerships to Improvement and Protect the Nation's Health.*

For questions about collaborating with CDC, please contact the CDC point of contact for this NOFO.

b. With organizations not funded by CDC:
It is a requirement of this opportunity to include a financial carve out for rural communities, as applicable. As such, applicants who serve rural communities must define these communities and describe how they will provide direct support (e.g., funding, programs and/or services) to those communities. State government applicants must also engage their State Office of Rural Health (SORH) or equivalent, in planning and implementing their activities and describe in their application how their SORHs or equivalent will be involved. To that end, CDC recommends state government applicants engage their respective SORH or equivalent, early in the application process. Contact information for SORHs can be found at: https://nosorh.org/nosorh-members/nosorh-members-browse-by-state/.

In addition, applicants are strongly encouraged to develop partnerships and collaborate with key partners who have existing community or social service delivery programs for African American, Hispanic, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Native American or other racial and ethnic minority groups or people living in rural communities. Such key partners may include:

- Community-based and civic organizations;
- Tribes, tribal organizations;
- Academic institutions, and universities (e.g., minority serving institutions – Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACUs), American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC),Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs);
- Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AAPI);
- Faith-based organizations;
- Non-governmental organizations;
- Correctional facilities and institutions;
- Local governmental agencies and community leaders;
- Local businesses and business community networks and organizations, (e.g., employers, local chambers of commerce, small business community groups);
- Social services providers and organizations, including those that address social determinants of health (e.g., community transportation; anti-discrimination organizations; legal services);

- Health care providers, including community health centers (e.g., federally qualified health centers, (FQHCs);
- Health-related organizations, (e.g., pharmacies, testing centers, community health workers);
- State Offices of Rural Health (SORH) or equivalent, State Rural Health Associations (SRHAs);
- Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs); and
- Governmental organizations focused on non-health services (e.g., Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility – Department of Transportation, Supportive housing for the elderly – Housing and Urban Development).

Through this collaborative approach, applicants will be better able to maximize the impact of their federal COVID-19 funding, strengthen implementation of strategies and activities, and align resources to better match the burden of COVID-19 among populations who are at higher risk and are underserved. This collaboration must be described in the application.

Applicants are encouraged to establish new funding relationships with partners and community organizations and may also continue funding relationships with partners and community organizations that have experience working with communities most affected by COVID-19 and have the capacity to implement strategies and activities outlined in this NOFO. To ensure resources reach the areas of greatest need, all applicants are strongly encouraged to use local epidemiologic, surveillance, and other available data sources to inform local resource allocation and program efforts, including program planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Memoranda of understanding (MOUs) or memoranda of agreement (MOAs) are encouraged, but not required.

2. Target Populations

This NOFO relates specifically to populations that have been placed at higher risk and are underserved, which, depending on the needs and priorities of the applicant, may include African American, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American people, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and other people of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people; people with disabilities; people who live in rural communities; people over the age of 65, and people otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

Recipients are required to define and describe their respective population(s) of focus and describe how they will provide direct support (e.g., funding, services, or programs) to those communities within their application. Please include in the description the number of those you will serve broken out by applicable geographic area and/or community.

Recipients are also encouraged to include members of the populations and communities to be served in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of program activities.

a. Health Disparities

Evidence shows that COVID-19-related health disparities are inextricably linked to complex and widespread health and social inequities that have put many people from populations that are underserved —including racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities—at higher risk of exposure, infection, hospitalization, and mortality from COVID-19.[2, 3, 4] Health equity requires striving for the highest possible standard of health for all people, giving special attention to the needs of those at greatest risk of poor health, based on social conditions.

The intent of this funding opportunity is to address COVID-19-related health disparities and advance health equity by expanding state, local, US territorial and freely associated state health department capacity and services to prevent and control COVID-19 infection (or transmission) among populations at higher risk and that are underserved, including racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities.

To reduce the burden of COVID-19 among disproportionately affected populations applicants are strongly encouraged to develop partnerships and collaborate with key partners who have existing community or social service delivery programs for African American, Hispanic, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Native American or other racial and ethnic minority groups or people living in rural communities. Such key partners may include:

- Community-based and civic organizations;
- Tribes, tribal organizations;
- Academic institutions, and universities (e.g., minority serving institutions – Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACUs), American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC),Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs);
- Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AAPI);
- Faith-based organizations;
- Non-governmental organizations;
- Correctional facilities and institutions;
- Local governmental agencies and community leaders;
- Local businesses and business community networks and organizations, (e.g., employers, local chambers of commerce, small business community groups);
- Social services providers and organizations, including those that address social determinants of health (e.g., community transportation; anti-discrimination organizations; legal services);
- Health care providers, including community health centers (e.g., federally qualified health centers, (FQHCs);
- Health-related organizations, (e.g., pharmacies, testing centers, community health workers);
- State Offices of Rural Health (SORH) or equivalent, State Rural Health Associations (SRHAs);
- Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs); and

- Governmental organizations focused on non-health services (e.g., Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility – Department of Transportation, Supportive housing for the elderly – Housing and Urban Development).

To reach populations at higher risk, underserved, and disproportionately affected—including racial and ethnic minority groups, and people living in rural communities—it is critical for funded recipients and key partners to implement a coordinated and holistic approach that builds on culturally, linguistically, and locally tailored strategies and best practices to reduce COVID-19 risk. In addition, a coordinated and holistic approach is essential to build and sustain trust, ensure equitable access to COVID-19-related services, and advance health equity to address COVID-19-related health disparities among populations at higher risk, underserved, and disproportionately affected.

iv. Funding Strategy

The funding strategy will consist of three components aimed at decreasing health disparities. The components are defined by type of jurisdiction. The amount of funds available for each component are based on the overall population size for each type of jurisdiction. Funds will be awarded for each component using a separate formula that is: a) consistent with the intent of the legislation and purposes of the grant, and b) appropriate for the eligible recipients. The three jurisdiction-specific components include:

1. State, City and County Jurisdictions: Approximately 80% of total available funding will be awarded to all states and eligible cities and counties based on COVID-19 social and structural determinants, as defined by the COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index (CCVI).
2. Rural Jurisdictions: Approximately 19% of total available funding will be awarded to states with rural populations, as defined by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) definition of rural. All state recipients will receive a portion of the rural funding available. Each recipient's share will be based on the size of the rural population within the recipient's jurisdiction. These funds will be distributed to state recipients in combination with the first Component (i.e., the CCVI allotment, in a single award.)
3. US Territorial and Freely Associated State Jurisdictions: Approximately 1% of total available funds will be awarded to US territories and freely associated states. Each US territorial and freely associated state recipient will receive base funding ($500,000), plus a population-based allotment that has been adjusted for COVID-19 burden. The COVID-19 burden adjustment will be based on the cumulative number of cases and deaths (per 100,000) for each US territory and freely associated state.

Please see Attachment A: OT21-2103 List of Eligible Applicants for a complete list of eligible applicants.

b. Evaluation and Performance Measurement

i. CDC Evaluation and Performance Measurement Strategy

Performance measures will be finalized and provided to recipients within approximately 45 days of award.

CDC will use recipients' financial and progress reporting data to address evaluation questions relating to use of funds and results associated with the grant. CDC will collect this information quarterly through the end of the period of performance utilizing standardize templates. Quarterly expenditure and progress reports will be submitted via the Research Electronic Data Capture, or otherwise known as REDCap. CDC will provide training and technical assistance for recipients on REDCap post-award.

Given the flexible nature of this grant and diversity of allowable activities, a Data Management Plan (DMP) is not required **unless** a recipient chooses to allocate funding to a COVID-19 activity that involves the collection, generation, or analysis of data. The DMP may be submitted as a checklist, paragraph, or other format. To help guide applicants in developing a DMP, a sample plan is provided via the following link:
http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/content/datamanagement/dmp/plan.html

As a result of the declared public health emergency (PHE), COVID-19, CDC's COVID-19 related data collections currently fall under a PHE Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) Waiver as part of the 21st Century Cures Act. PRA requirements for most information collection activities that support the investigation of, and response to the COVID-19 pandemic, that would normally require submission of a PRA package, can be waived. If information collection activities continue beyond the period of the declared public health emergency or beyond the termination PHE PRA Waiver, all collections will become subject to requirements of the PRA. Awardees will receive additional guidance from CDC on how to address these PRA requirements.

ii. Applicant Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan

Applicants must provide an evaluation and performance measurement plan that demonstrates how the recipient will fulfill the requirements described in the CDC Evaluation and Performance Measurement and Project Description sections of this NOFO. At a minimum, the plan must describe:

- How the applicant will collect the performance measures, respond to the evaluation questions, and use evaluation findings for continuous program quality improvement.
- How key program partners will participate in the evaluation and performance measurement planning processes.
- Available data sources, feasibility of collecting appropriate evaluation and performance data, and other relevant data information (e.g., performance measures proposed by the applicant)
- Plans for updating the Data Management Plan (DMP) as new pertinent information becomes available. If applicable, throughout the lifecycle of the project. Updates to DMP should be provided in annual progress reports. The DMP should provide a description of the data that will be produced using these NOFO funds; access to data; data standards ensuring released data have documentation describing methods of collection, what the data represent, and data limitations; and archival and long-term data preservation plans. For more information about CDC's policy on the DMP, see https://www.cdc.gov/grants/additionalrequirements/ar-25.html.

Where the applicant chooses to, or is expected to, take on specific evaluation studies, the applicant should be directed to:

- Describe the type of evaluations (i.e., process, outcome, or both).
- Describe key evaluation questions to be addressed by these evaluations.
- Describe other information (e.g., measures, data sources).

Recipients will be required to submit a more detailed Evaluation and Performance Measurement plan, including a DMP, if applicable, within the first 6 months of award, as described in the Reporting Section of this NOFO.

Due to the nature of this grant and public health crisis, applicants are not required to provide an Evaluation and Performance Measurement plan with their application. Recipients are strongly encouraged to use evaluation and performance measurement data at the local level to monitor, evaluate, and continuously improve program performance. CDC will finalize and provide performance measures within approximately 45 days of award. Recipients will be required to report quarterly on CDC defined performance measures and participate in CDC evaluation and performance management activities. Evaluation reports will be made available to the public.

c. Organizational Capacity of Recipients to Implement the Approach

Applicants must demonstrate the organizational capacity needed to carry out and coordinate strategies to advance health equity and address COVID-19-related health disparities for populations at higher risk and that are underserved, including racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities.

Applicants must also demonstrate the capacity to collaborate with their State Offices of Rural Health (SORH) or equivalent, if applicable, and with key partners with community or social service delivery programs for African American, Hispanic, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Native American or other racial and ethnic minority groups or people living in rural communities. Please refer to Approach section of NOFO for a list of recommended key partners.

Acceptable documentation includes, but is not limited to, a signed letter by the health department leader or their designees on organization letterhead explaining the existing capacity and capability; departmental organizational charts; an incident management structure organizational chart; and resumes or CVs for key personnel positions that are currently filled (include position descriptions for vacant positions). Applicant must name this file "Organizational Capacity" and upload it as a PDF to www.grants.gov.

d. Work Plan

Applicants must develop and submit a high-level work plan for the 2-year period of performance. The work plan must align with the strategies and activities outlined in the NOFO. Specifically, activities must align to one or more of the following strategies:

- *Strategy 1:Expand existing and/or develop new mitigation and prevention resources and services to reduce COVID-19 related disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved*

- *Strategy 2: Increase/improve data collection and reporting for populations experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 infection, severe illness, and death to guide the response to the COVID-19 pandemic*
- *Strategy 3: Build, leverage, and expand infrastructure support for COVID-19 prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk and underserved*
- *Strategy 4: Mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 health disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved*

Applicants are not required to implement all four strategies, but rather they should select the strategies and activities that best address their jurisdiction's respective priorities and needs. Strategies should engage representatives of populations and communities to be served by this NOFO. CDC will also allow applicants to propose additional strategies and activities beyond those included in the NOFO to best achieve local outcomes. Any proposed new strategy or activity should include the rationale for the approach or a brief justification with evidence showing why it should be included. Applicants should not propose to allocate all funding to one activity (e.g. all funding will be used for one vaccination or testing event only).

Applicants must use the template provided as Attachment B: CDC-RFA-OT21-2103 Work Plan Template. Applicant must name this file "[Name of Jurisdiction] Work Plan" and upload it as an attachment to www.grants.gov.

e. CDC Monitoring and Accountability Approach

Monitoring activities include routine and ongoing communication between CDC and recipients, site visits, and recipient reporting (including work plans, performance, and financial reporting). Consistent with applicable grants regulations and policies, CDC expects the following to be included in post-award monitoring for grants and cooperative agreements:

- Tracking recipient progress in achieving the desired outcomes.
- Ensuring the adequacy of recipient systems that underlie and generate data reports.
- Creating an environment that fosters integrity in program performance and results.

Monitoring may also include the following activities deemed necessary to monitor the award:

- Ensuring that work plans are feasible based on the budget and consistent with the intent of the award.
- Ensuring that recipients are performing at a sufficient level to achieve outcomes within stated timeframes.
- Working with recipients on adjusting the work plan based on achievement of outcomes, evaluation results and changing budgets.
- Monitoring performance measures (both programmatic and financial) to assure satisfactory performance levels.

Monitoring and reporting activities that assist grants management staff (e.g., grants management officers and specialists, and project officers) in the identification, notification, and management of high-risk recipients.

CDC will collect recipient financial and progress reporting data quarterly through the end of the period of performance.

CDC will also conduct a virtual compliance visit after six months, but before the end of the first year, from date of the award. The virtual compliance visit will be a telephone call and/or video conference to ensure the recipient's compliance with using the funding for the approved activities and to identify technical assistance needs. CDC may conduct additional in-person site or virtual visits as needed to best facilitate grants management and oversight duties.

B. Award Information

1. Funding Instrument Type:
G (Grant)

2. Award Mechanism:
CDC-RFA-OT21-2103

3. Fiscal Year:
2021

4. Approximate Total Fiscal Year Funding:
$ 2,250,000,000

5. Total Period of Performance Funding:
$ 2,250,000,000
This amount is subject to the availability of funds.

All funding will be disbursed during year one with a total performance period of two years.

Estimated Total Funding:
$ 2,250,000,000

6. Total Period of Performance Length:
2
year(s)

7. Expected Number of Awards:
108

8. Approximate Average Award:

$ 0
Per Project Period

Funding will vary by jurisdiction category. Average one-year award amount by applicant type:

- State Health Department: $32,000,000
- Local Health Departments Serving a County or City with a Population of ≥2 Million: $26,000,000

- Local Health Departments Serving a City with a Population of 400,000 or more, but less than 2 Million: $5,000,000
- US Territories and Freely Associated States: $3,000,000

9. Award Ceiling:
$ 50,000,000
Per Project Period

This amount is subject to the availability of funds.

Funding will vary by jurisdiction category. Award Ceiling by applicant type:

- State Health Department: $50,000,000
- Local Health Departments Serving a County or City with a Population of ≥2 Million: $35,000,000
- Local Health Departments Serving a City with a Population of 400,000 or more, but less than 2 Million: $9,000,000
- US Territories and Freely Associated States: $10,000,000

10. Award Floor:
$ 500,000
Per Project Period

Funding will vary by jurisdiction category. Award Floor by applicant type:

- State Health Department: $17,000,000
- Local Health Departments Serving a County or City with a Population of ≥2 Million: $17,000,000
- Local Health Departments Serving a City with a Population of 400,000 or more, but less than 2 Million: $2,000,000
- US Territories and Freely Associated States: $500,000

11. Estimated Award Date:
June 01, 2021

12. Budget Period Length:
24 month(s)

Throughout the project period, CDC will continue the award based on the availability of funds, the 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. The total number of years for which federal support has been approved (project period) will be shown in the "Notice of Award." This information does not constitute a commitment by the federal government to fund the entire period. The total period of performance comprises the initial competitive segment and any subsequent non-competitive continuation award(s).

13. Direct Assistance

Direct Assistance (DA) is not available through this NOFO.

If you are successful and receive a Notice of Award, in accepting the award, you agree that the award and any activities thereunder are subject to all provisions of 45 CFR part 75, currently in effect or implemented during the period of the award, other Department regulations and policies in effect at the time of the award, and applicable statutory provisions.

C. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants

Eligibility Category:
00 (State governments)

01 (County governments)

02 (City or township governments)

04 (Special district governments)

25 (Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification))

Additional Eligibility Category:

Government Organizations:

State governments or their bona fide agents (includes the District of Columbia)

Local governments or their bona fide agents

Territorial governments or their bona fide agents in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianna Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau

2. Additional Information on Eligibility

Awards must be made to state, District of Columbia, local, US territorial, and/or freely associated state health departments (or their bona fide agents). Local (health departments) governments or their bona fide agents are eligible if they:

- Serve a county population of 2,000,000 or more; or serve a city population of 400,000 or more. Population for county and city jurisdictions are based on the following US Census 2019 resources:
    - City and Town Population Totals: 2010-2019 (census.gov) U.S. Census -- Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Incorporated Places of 50,000 or More, Ranked by July 1, 2019 Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019
    - County Population Totals: 2010-2019 (census.gov)- US Census – Annual Estimates for 2019

Bona fide agents are eligible to apply. For more information about bona fide agents, please see the CDC webpage on Expediting the Federal Grant Process with an Administrative Partner located at https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/grantsfunding/expediting.html#Q2

3. Justification for Less than Maximum Competition

N/A

4. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement:
No
Cost sharing or matching funds are not required for this program. Although no statutory matching requirement for this NOFO exists, leveraging other resources and related ongoing efforts to promote sustainability is strongly encouraged.

5. Maintenance of Effort

Maintenance of effort is not required for this program.

D. Application and Submission Information

1. Required Registrations

An organization must be registered at the three following locations before it can submit an application for funding at www.grants.gov.

a. Data Universal Numbering System:
All applicant organizations must obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit identification number provided by Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). It will be used as the Universal Identifier when applying for federal awards or cooperative agreements.
The applicant organization may request a DUNS number by telephone at 1-866-705-5711 (toll free) or internet at http:// fedgov.dnb. com/ webform/ displayHomePage.do. The DUNS number will be provided at no charge.
If funds are awarded to an applicant organization that includes sub-recipients, those sub-recipients must provide their DUNS numbers before accepting any funds.

b. System for Award Management (SAM):
The SAM is the primary registrant database for the federal government and the repository into which an entity must submit information required to conduct business as a recipient. All applicant organizations must register with SAM, and will be assigned a SAM number. All information relevant to the SAM number must be current at all times during which the applicant has an application under consideration for funding by CDC. If an award is made, the SAM information must be maintained until a final financial report is submitted or the final payment is received, whichever is later. The SAM registration process can require 10 or more business days, and registration must be renewed annually. Additional information about registration procedures may be found at https://www.sam.gov/SAM/.

c. Grants.gov:
The first step in submitting an application online is registering your organization at www.grants.gov, the official HHS E-grant Web site. Registration information is located at the "Applicant Registration" option at www.grants.gov.
All applicant organizations must register at www.grants.gov. The one-time registration process usually takes not more than five days to complete. Applicants should start the registration

process as early as possible.

Step	System	Requirements	Duration	Follow Up
1	Data Universal Number System (DUNS)	1. Click on http:// fedgov.dnb.com/ webform 2. Select Begin DUNS search/request process 3. Select your country or territory and follow the instructions to obtain your DUNS 9-digit # 4. Request appropriate staff member(s) to obtain DUNS number, verify & update information under DUNS number	1-2 Business Days	To confirm that you have been issued a new DUNS number check online at (http:// fedgov.dnb.com/ webform) or call 1-866-705-5711
2	System for Award Management (SAM) formerly Central Contractor Registration (CCR)	1. Retrieve organizations DUNS number 2. Go to https://www.sam.gov/SAM/ and designate an E-Biz POC (note CCR username will not work in SAM and you will need to have an active SAM account before you can register on grants.gov)	3-5 Business Days but up to 2 weeks and must be renewed once a year	For SAM Customer Service Contact https://fsd.gov/ fsd-gov/ home.do Calls: 866-606-8220
3	Grants.gov	1. Set up an individual account in Grants.gov using organization new DUNS number to become an authorized organization representative (AOR) 2. Once the account is set up the E-BIZ POC will be notified via email 3. Log into grants.gov using the password the E-BIZ POC received and create new password 4. This authorizes the AOR to submit applications on behalf of the organization	Same day but can take 8 weeks to be fully registered and approved in the system (note, applicants MUST obtain a DUNS number and SAM account before applying on grants.gov)	Register early! Log into grants.gov and check AOR status until it shows you have been approved

2. Request Application Package

Applicants may access the application package at www.grants.gov.

3. Application Package

Applicants must download the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance, package associated with this notice of funding opportunity at www.grants.gov.

4. Submission Dates and Times

If the application is not submitted by the deadline published in the NOFO, it will not be processed. Office of Grants Services (OGS) personnel will notify the applicant that their application did not meet the deadline. The applicant must receive pre-approval to submit a paper application (see Other Submission Requirements section for additional details). If the applicant is authorized to submit a paper application, it must be received by the deadline provided by OGS.

a. Letter of Intent Deadline (must be emailed or postmarked by)

Due Date for Letter Of Intent 03/26/2021

03/26/2021

b. Application Deadline

05/03/2021
11:59 pm U.S. Eastern Standard Time, at www.grants.gov. If Grants.gov is inoperable and cannot receive applications, and circumstances preclude advance notification of an extension, then applications must be submitted by the first business day on which grants.gov operations resume.

Due Date for Information Conference Call
CDC will host *two* informational conference calls for potential applicants:

Date: 03/30/2021

Times: 3:00pm to 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time
and
6:00pm to 7:00pm Eastern Standard Time

Meeting Details:
Join ZoomGov Meeting
https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/16040976381?pwd=NmNjdFcrQlFVSjVPZ25nR0dHay9zdz09

Meeting ID: 160 4097 6381
Passcode: OT21-2103
One tap mobile
+16692545252,,16040976381#,,,,,,0#,,708148093# US (San Jose)
+16468287666,,16040976381#,,,,,,0#,,708148093# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose)
+1 646 828 7666 US (New York)
+1 669 216 1590 US (San Jose)
+1 551 285 1373 US
Meeting ID: 160 4097 6381

Passcode: 708148093
Find your local number: https://cdc.zoomgov.com/u/advmPjIAqk

Join by SIP
16040976381@sip.zoomgov.com

Join by H.323
161.199.138.10 (US West)
161.199.136.10 (US East)
Meeting ID: 160 4097 6381
Passcode: 708148093

5. CDC Assurances and Certifications

All applicants are required to sign and submit "Assurances and Certifications" documents indicated at http://wwwn.cdc.gov/ grantassurances/ (S(mj444mxct51lnrv1hljjjmaa)) /Homepage.aspx.

Applicants may follow either of the following processes:

- Complete the applicable assurances and certifications with each application submission, name the file "Assurances and Certifications" and upload it as a PDF file with at www.grants.gov
- Complete the applicable assurances and certifications and submit them directly to CDC on an annual basis at http://wwwn.cdc.gov/ grantassurances/ (S(mj444mxct51lnrv1hljjjmaa))/ Homepage.aspx

Assurances and certifications submitted directly to CDC will be kept on file for one year and will apply to all applications submitted to CDC by the applicant within one year of the submission date.

Risk Assessment Questionnaire Requirement

CDC is required to conduct pre-award risk assessments to determine the risk an applicant poses to meeting federal programmatic and administrative requirements by taking into account issues such as financial instability, insufficient management systems, non-compliance with award conditions, the charging of unallowable costs, and inexperience. The risk assessment will include an evaluation of the applicant's CDC Risk Questionnaire, located at https://www.cdc.gov/grants/documents/PPMR-G-CDC-Risk-Questionnaire.pdf, as well as a review of the applicant's history in all available systems; including OMB-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility and financial integrity systems (see 45 CFR 75.205(a)), and other sources of historical information. These systems include, but are not limited to: FAPIIS (https://www.fapiis.gov/), including past performance on federal contracts as per Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of 2009; Do Not Pay list; and System for Award Management (SAM) exclusions.

CDC requires all applicants to complete the Risk Questionnaire, OMB Control Number 0920-1132 annually. This questionnaire, which is located at https://www.cdc.gov/grants/documents/PPMR-G-CDC-Risk-Questionnaire.pdf, along with

supporting documentation must be submitted with your application by the closing date of the Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcement. If your organization has completed CDC's Risk Questionnaire within the past 12 months of the closing date of this NOFO, then you must submit a copy of that questionnaire, or submit a letter signed by the authorized organization representative to include the original submission date, organization's EIN and DUNS.

When uploading supporting documentation for the Risk Questionnaire into this application package, clearly label the documents for easy identification of the type of documentation. For example, a copy of Procurement policy submitted in response to the questionnaire may be labeled using the following format: Risk Questionnaire Supporting Documents _ Procurement Policy.

Duplication of Efforts

Applicants are responsible for reporting if this application will result in programmatic, budgetary, or commitment overlap with another application or award (i.e. grant, cooperative agreement, or contract) submitted to another funding source in the same fiscal year. Programmatic overlap occurs when (1) substantially the same project is proposed in more than one application or is submitted to two or more funding sources for review and funding consideration or (2) a specific objective and the project design for accomplishing the objective are the same or closely related in two or more applications or awards, regardless of the funding source. Budgetary overlap occurs when duplicate or equivalent budgetary items (e.g., equipment, salaries) are requested in an application but already are provided by another source. Commitment overlap occurs when an individual's time commitment exceeds 100 percent, whether or not salary support is requested in the application. Overlap, whether programmatic, budgetary, or commitment of an individual's effort greater than 100 percent, is not permitted. Any overlap will be resolved by the CDC with the applicant and the PD/PI prior to award.

Report Submission: The applicant must upload the report in Grants.gov under "Other Attachment Forms." The document should be labeled: "Report on Programmatic, Budgetary, and Commitment Overlap."

6. Content and Form of Application Submission

Applicants are required to include all of the following documents with their application package at www.grants.gov.

7. Letter of Intent

Letters of Intent (LOI) are not required but are requested as part of the application for this NOFO. The purpose of an LOI is to allow CDC program staff to estimate the number of and plan for the review of submitted applications.

Letters of Intent should be submitted via email to OT21-2103Support@cdc.gov no later than March 26, 2021.

8. Table of Contents

(There is no page limit. The table of contents is not included in the project narrative page limit.): The applicant must provide, as a separate attachment, the “Table of Contents” for the entire submission package.

Provide a detailed table of contents for the entire submission package that includes all of the documents in the application and headings in the "Project Narrative" section. Name the file "Table of Contents" and upload it as a PDF file under "Other Attachment Forms" at www.grants.gov.

9. Project Abstract Summary

A project abstract is included on the mandatory documents list and must be submitted at www.grants.gov. The project abstract must be a self-contained, brief summary of the proposed project including the purpose and outcomes. This summary must not include any proprietary or confidential information. Applicants must enter the summary in the "Project Abstract Summary" text box at www.grants.gov.

10. Project Narrative

(Unless specified in the "H. Other Information" section, maximum of 20 pages, single spaced, 12 point font, 1-inch margins, number all pages. This includes the work plan. Content beyond the specified page number will not be reviewed.)

Applicants must submit a Project Narrative with the application forms. Applicants must name this file “Project Narrative” and upload it at www.grants.gov. The Project Narrative must include **all** of the following headings (including subheadings): Background, Approach, Applicant Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan, Organizational Capacity of Applicants to Implement the Approach, and Work Plan. The Project Narrative must be succinct, self-explanatory, and in the order outlined in this section. It must address outcomes and activities to be conducted over the entire period of performance as identified in the CDC Project Description section. Applicants should use the federal plain language guidelines and Clear Communication Index to respond to this Notice of Funding Opportunity. Note that recipients should also use these tools when creating public communication materials supported by this NOFO. Failure to follow the guidance and format may negatively impact scoring of the application.

a. Background

Applicants must provide a description of relevant background information that includes the context of the problem (See CDC Background).

b. Approach

i. Purpose

Applicants must describe in 2-3 sentences specifically how their application will address the public health problem as described in the CDC Background section.

ii. Outcomes

Applicants must clearly identify the outcomes they expect to achieve by the end of the project period, as identified in the logic model in the Approach section of the CDC Project Description. Outcomes are the results that the program intends to achieve and usually indicate the intended direction of change (e.g., increase, decrease).

iii. Strategies and Activities

Applicants must provide a clear and concise description of the strategies and activities they will use to achieve the period of performance outcomes. Applicants must select existing evidence-based strategies that meet their needs, or describe in the Applicant Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan how these strategies will be evaluated over the course of the project period. See the Strategies and Activities section of the CDC Project Description.

1. Collaborations

Applicants must describe how they will collaborate with programs and organizations either internal or external to CDC. Applicants must address the Collaboration requirements as described in the CDC Project Description.

2. Target Populations and Health Disparities

Applicants must describe the specific target population(s) in their jurisdiction and explain how such a target will achieve the goals of the award and/or alleviate health disparities. The applicants must also address how they will include specific populations that can benefit from the program that is described in the Approach section. Applicants must address the Target Populations and Health Disparities requirements as described in the CDC Project Description.

c. Applicant Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan

Applicants must provide an evaluation and performance measurement plan that demonstrates how the recipient will fulfill the requirements described in the CDC Evaluation and Performance Measurement and Project Description sections of this NOFO. At a minimum, the plan must describe:

- How applicant will collect the performance measures, respond to the evaluation questions, and use evaluation findings for continuous program quality improvement. The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA): Applicants are advised that any activities involving information collections (e.g., surveys, questionnaires, applications, audits, data requests, reporting, recordkeeping and disclosure requirements) from 10 or more individuals or non-Federal entities, including State and local governmental agencies, and funded or sponsored by the Federal Government are subject to review and approval by the Office of Management and Budget. For further information about CDC's requirements under PRA see http://www.hhs.gov/ ocio/policy/collection/.
- How key program partners will participate in the evaluation and performance measurement planning processes.
- Available data sources, feasibility of collecting appropriate evaluation and performance data, data management plan (DMP), and other relevant data information (e.g., performance measures proposed by the applicant).

Where the applicant chooses to, or is expected to, take on specific evaluation studies, they should be directed to:

- Describe the type of evaluations (i.e., process, outcome, or both).
- Describe key evaluation questions to be addressed by these evaluations.
- Describe other information (e.g., measures, data sources).

Recipients will be required to submit a more detailed Evaluation and Performance Measurement plan (including the DMP elements) within the first 6 months of award, as described in the Reporting Section of this NOFO.

d. Organizational Capacity of Applicants to Implement the Approach

Applicants must address the organizational capacity requirements as described in the CDC Project Description.

11. Work Plan

(Included in the Project Narrative's page limit)

Applicants must prepare a work plan consistent with the CDC Project Description Work Plan section. The work plan integrates and delineates more specifically how the recipient plans to carry out achieving the period of performance outcomes, strategies and activities, evaluation and performance measurement.

12. Budget Narrative

Applicants must submit an itemized budget narrative. When developing the budget narrative, applicants must consider whether the proposed budget is reasonable and consistent with the purpose, outcomes, and program strategy outlined in the project narrative. The budget must include:

- Salaries and wages
- Fringe benefits
- Consultant costs
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Travel
- Other categories
- Contractual costs
- Total Direct costs
- Total Indirect costs

Indirect costs could include the cost of collecting, managing, sharing and preserving data.

Indirect costs on grants awarded to foreign organizations and foreign public entities and performed fully outside of the territorial limits of the U.S. may be paid to support the costs of compliance with federal requirements at a fixed rate of eight percent of MTDC exclusive of tuition and related fees, direct expenditures for equipment, and subawards in excess of $25,000. Negotiated indirect costs may be paid to the American University, Beirut, and the World Health Organization.

If applicable and consistent with the cited statutory authority for this announcement, applicant entities may use funds for activities as they relate to the intent of this NOFO to meet national standards or seek health department accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (see: http://www.phaboard.org). Applicant entities to whom this provision applies include state, local, territorial governments (including the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianna Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau), or their bona fide agents, political subdivisions of states (in consultation with states), federally recognized or state-recognized American Indian or Alaska Native tribal governments, and American Indian or Alaska Native tribally designated organizations. Activities include those that enable a public health organization to deliver public health services such as activities that ensure a capable and qualified workforce, up-to-date information systems, and the capability to assess and respond to public health needs. Use of these funds must focus on achieving a minimum of one national standard that supports the intent of the NOFO. Proposed activities must be included in the budget narrative and must indicate which standards will be addressed.

Vital records data, including births and deaths, are used to inform public health program and policy decisions. If applicable and consistent with the cited statutory authority for this NOFO, applicant entities are encouraged to collaborate with and support their jurisdiction's vital records office (VRO) to improve vital records data timeliness, quality and access, and to advance public health goals. Recipients may, for example, use funds to support efforts to build VRO capacity through partnerships; provide technical and/or financial assistance to improve vital records timeliness, quality or access; or support vital records improvement efforts, as approved by CDC.

Applicants must name this file "Budget Narrative" and upload it as a PDF file at www.grants.gov. If requesting indirect costs in the budget, a copy of the indirect cost-rate agreement is required. If the indirect costs are requested, include a copy of the current negotiated federal indirect cost rate agreement or a cost allocation plan approval letter for those Recipients under such a plan. Applicants must name this file "Indirect Cost Rate" and upload it at www.grants.gov.

13. Funds Tracking

Proper fiscal oversight is critical to maintaining public trust in the stewardship of federal funds. Effective October 1, 2013, a new HHS policy on subaccounts requires the CDC to set up payment subaccounts within the Payment Management System (PMS) for all new grant awards. Funds awarded in support of approved activities and drawdown instructions will be identified on the Notice of Award in a newly established PMS subaccount (P subaccount). Recipients will be required to draw down funds from award-specific accounts in the PMS. Ultimately, the subaccounts will provide recipients and CDC a more detailed and precise understanding of financial transactions. The successful applicant will be required to track funds by P-accounts/sub

accounts for each project/cooperative agreement awarded. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate a record of fiscal responsibility and the ability to provide sufficient and effective oversight. Financial management systems must meet the requirements as described 45 CFR 75 which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Records that identify adequately the source and application of funds for federally-funded activities.
- Effective control over, and accountability for, all funds, property, and other assets.
- Comparison of expenditures with budget amounts for each Federal award.
- Written procedures to implement payment requirements.
- Written procedures for determining cost allowability.
- Written procedures for financial reporting and monitoring.

14. Pilot Program for Enhancement of Employee Whistleblower Protections

Pilot Program for Enhancement of Employee Whistleblower Protections: All applicants will be subject to a term and condition that applies the terms of 48 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) section 3.908 to the award and requires that recipients inform their employees in writing (in the predominant native language of the workforce) of employee whistleblower rights and protections under 41 U.S.C. 4712.

15. Copyright Interests Provisions

This provision is intended to ensure that the public has access to the results and accomplishments of public health activities funded by CDC. Pursuant to applicable grant regulations and CDC's Public Access Policy, Recipient agrees to submit into the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Manuscript Submission (NIHMS) system an electronic version of the final, peer-reviewed manuscript of any such work developed under this award upon acceptance for publication, to be made publicly available no later than 12 months after the official date of publication. Also at the time of submission, Recipient and/or the Recipient's submitting author must specify the date the final manuscript will be publicly accessible through PubMed Central (PMC). Recipient and/or Recipient's submitting author must also post the manuscript through PMC within twelve (12) months of the publisher's official date of final publication; however the author is strongly encouraged to make the subject manuscript available as soon as possible. The recipient must obtain prior approval from the CDC for any exception to this provision.

The author's final, peer-reviewed manuscript is defined as the final version accepted for journal publication, and includes all modifications from the publishing peer review process, and all graphics and supplemental material associated with the article. Recipient and its submitting authors working under this award are responsible for ensuring that any publishing or copyright agreements concerning submitted articles reserve adequate right to fully comply with this provision and the license reserved by CDC. The manuscript will be hosted in both PMC and the CDC Stacks institutional repository system. In progress reports for this award, recipient must identify publications subject to the CDC Public Access Policy by using the applicable NIHMS

identification number for up to three (3) months after the publication date and the PubMed Central identification number (PMCID) thereafter.

16. Funding Restrictions

Restrictions that must be considered while planning the programs and writing the budget are:

- Recipients may not use funds for research.
- Recipients may not use funds for clinical care except as allowed by law.
- Recipients may use funds only for reasonable program purposes, including personnel, travel, supplies, and services.
- Generally, recipients may not use funds to purchase furniture or equipment. Any such proposed spending must be clearly identified in the budget.
- Reimbursement of pre-award costs generally is not allowed, unless the CDC provides written approval to the recipient.
- Other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships, no funds may be used for:
    - publicity or propaganda purposes, for the preparation, distribution, or use of any material designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before any legislative body
    - the salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment of legislation, appropriations, regulation, administrative action, or Executive order proposed or pending before any legislative body
- See Additional Requirement (AR) 12 for detailed guidance on this prohibition and additional guidance on lobbying for CDC recipients.
- The direct and primary recipient in a cooperative agreement program must perform a substantial role in carrying out project outcomes and not merely serve as a conduit for an award to another party or provider who is ineligible.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Funds:

- A recipient of a grant or cooperative agreement awarded by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with funds made available under the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-123); the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, 2020 (the "CARES Act") (P.L. 116-136); the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (P.L. 116-139); and/or H.R. 133 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Division M – Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, agrees, as applicable to the award, to: 1) comply with existing and/or future directives and guidance from the Secretary regarding control of the spread of COVID-19; 2) in consultation and coordination with HHS, provide, commensurate with the condition of the individual, COVID-19 patient care regardless of the individual's home jurisdiction and/or appropriate public health

measures (e.g., social distancing, home isolation); and 3) assist the United States Government in the implementation and enforcement of federal orders related to quarantine and isolation.

- In addition, to the extent applicable, Recipient will comply with Section 18115 of the CARES Act, with respect to the reporting to the HHS Secretary of results of tests intended to detect SARS–CoV–2 or to diagnose a possible case of COVID–19. Such reporting shall be in accordance with guidance and direction from HHS and/or CDC. HHS laboratory reporting guidance is posted at: https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/covid-19-laboratory-data-reporting-guidance.pdf.
- Further, consistent with the full scope of applicable grant regulations (45 C.F.R. 75.322), the purpose of this award, and the underlying funding, the recipient is expected to provide to CDC copies of and/or access to COVID-19 data collected and evaluations conducted with these funds, including but not limited to data related to COVID-19 testing. CDC will specify in further guidance and directives what is encompassed by this requirement.
- To achieve the public health objectives of ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of all Americans, Recipient must distribute or administer vaccine without discriminating on non-public-health grounds within a prioritized group.

18. Data Management Plan

As identified in the Evaluation and Performance Measurement section, applications involving data collection or generation must include a Data Management Plan (DMP) as part of their evaluation and performance measurement plan unless CDC has stated that CDC will take on the responsibility of creating the DMP. The DMP describes plans for assurance of the quality of the public health data through the data's lifecycle and plans to deposit the data in a repository to preserve and to make the data accessible in a timely manner. See web link for additional information:
https://www.cdc.gov/grants/additionalrequirements/ar-25.html

18. Other Submission Requirements

a. Electronic Submission:

Applications must be submitted electronically by using the forms and instructions posted for this notice of funding opportunity at www.grants.gov. Applicants can complete the application package using Workspace, which allows forms to be filled out online or offline. All application attachments must be submitted using a PDF file format. Instructions and training for using Workspace can be found at www.grants.gov under the "Workspace Overview" option.

b. Tracking Number: Applications submitted through www.grants.gov are time/date stamped electronically and assigned a tracking number. The applicant's Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) will be sent an e-mail notice of receipt when www.grants.gov receives the application. The tracking number documents that the application has been submitted and initiates the required electronic validation process before the application is made available to CDC.

c. Validation Process: Application submission is not concluded until the validation process is completed successfully. After the application package is submitted, the applicant will receive a "submission receipt" e-mail generated by www.grants.gov. A second e-mail message to applicants will then be generated by www.grants.gov that will either validate or reject the submitted application package. This validation process may take as long as two business days. Applicants are strongly encouraged to check the status of their application to ensure that submission of their package has been completed and no submission errors have occurred. Applicants also are strongly encouraged to allocate ample time for filing to guarantee that their application can be submitted and validated by the deadline published in the NOFO. Non-validated applications will not be accepted after the published application deadline date.

If you do not receive a "validation" e-mail within two business days of application submission, please contact www.grants.gov. For instructions on how to track your application, refer to the e-mail message generated at the time of application submission or the Grants.gov Online User Guide.

https:// www.grants.gov/help/html/help/index.htm? callingApp=custom#t= Get_Started%2FGet_Started. htm

d. Technical Difficulties: If technical difficulties are encountered at www.grants.gov, applicants should contact Customer Service at www.grants.gov. The www.grants.gov Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays. The Contact Center is available by phone at 1-800-518-4726 or by e-mail at support@grants.gov. Application submissions sent by e-mail or fax, or on CDs or thumb drives will not be accepted. Please note that www.grants.gov is managed by HHS.

e. Paper Submission: If technical difficulties are encountered at www.grants.gov, applicants should call the www.grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726 or e-mail them at support@grants.gov for assistance. After consulting with the Contact Center, if the technical difficulties remain unresolved and electronic submission is not possible, applicants may e-mail CDC GMO/GMS, before the deadline, and request permission to submit a paper application. Such requests are handled on a case-by-case basis.

An applicant's request for permission to submit a paper application must:

1. Include the www.grants.gov case number assigned to the inquiry
2. Describe the difficulties that prevent electronic submission and the efforts taken with the www.grants.gov Contact Center to submit electronically; and
3. Be received via e-mail to the GMS/GMO listed below at least three calendar days before the application deadline. Paper applications submitted without prior approval will not be considered.

   If a paper application is authorized, OGS will advise the applicant of specific instructions for submitting the application (e.g., original and two hard copies of the application by U.S. mail or express delivery service).

E. Review and Selection Process

1. Review and Selection Process: Applications will be reviewed in three phases

a. Phase 1 Review

All applications will be initially reviewed for eligibility and completeness by CDC Office of Grants Services. Complete applications will be reviewed for responsiveness by the Grants Management Officials and Program Officials. Non-responsive applications will not advance to Phase II review. Applicants will be notified that their applications did not meet eligibility and/or published submission requirements.

b. Phase II Review

A review panel will evaluate complete, eligible applications in accordance with the criteria below.

i. Approach
ii. Evaluation and Performance Measurement
iii. Applicant's Organizational Capacity to Implement the Approach

Not more than thirty days after the Phase II review is completed, applicants will be notified electronically if their application does not meet eligibility or published submission requirements

i. Approach	**Maximum Points:** 0
ii. Evaluation and Performance Measurement	**Maximum Points:** 0
iii. Applicant's Organizational Capacity to Implement the Approach	**Maximum Points:** 0
Budget	**Maximum Points:** 0
i. Approach	**Maximum Points:** 0
ii. Evaluation and Performance Measurement	**Maximum Points:** 0
iii. Applicant's Organizational Capacity to Implement the Approach	**Maximum Points:** 0
Budget	**Maximum Points:** 0

c. Phase III Review

This is a noncompetitive NOFO. Applications will be reviewed for technical merit without scoring.

Review of risk posed by applicants.

Prior to making a Federal award, CDC is required by 31 U.S.C. 3321 and 41 U.S.C. 2313 to review information available through any OMB-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information as appropriate. See also suspension and debarment requirements at 2 CFR parts 180 and 376.

In accordance 41 U.S.C. 2313, CDC is required to review the non-public segment of the OMB-designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently the Federal Recipient Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)) prior to making a Federal award where the Federal share is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold,

defined in 41 U.S.C. 134, over the period of performance. At a minimum, the information in the system for a prior Federal award recipient must demonstrate a satisfactory record of executing programs or activities under Federal grants, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards; and integrity and business ethics. CDC may make a Federal award to a recipient who does not fully meet these standards, if it is determined that the information is not relevant to the current Federal award under consideration or there are specific conditions that can appropriately mitigate the effects of the non-Federal entity's risk in accordance with 45 CFR §75.207.

CDC's framework for evaluating the risks posed by an applicant may incorporate results of the evaluation of the applicant's eligibility or the quality of its application. If it is determined that a Federal award will be made, special conditions that correspond to the degree of risk assessed may be applied to the Federal award. The evaluation criteria is described in this Notice of Funding Opportunity.

In evaluating risks posed by applicants, CDC will use a risk-based approach and may consider any items such as the following:

(1) Financial stability;

(2) Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in this part;

(3) History of performance. The applicant's record in managing Federal awards, if it is a prior recipient of Federal awards, including timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements, conformance to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards, and if applicable, the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards;

(4) Reports and findings from audits performed under subpart F 45 CFR 75 or the reports and findings of any other available audits; and

(5) The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities.

CDC must comply with the guidelines on government-wide suspension and debarment in 2 CFR part 180, and require non-Federal entities to comply with these provisions. These provisions restrict Federal awards, subawards and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal programs or activities.

2. Announcement and Anticipated Award Dates

The anticipated posting date is March 17, 2021, on www.grants.gov. Applicants will have up to 45 days, or May 3, 2021, to respond. Applicants are encouraged to apply early. The anticipated award date is approximately 30 calendar days after the end of the application period, or June 1, 2021.

F. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

Recipients will receive an electronic copy of the Notice of Award (NOA) from CDC OGS. The NOA shall be the only binding, authorizing document between the recipient and CDC. The NOA will be signed by an authorized GMO and emailed to the Recipient Business Officer listed in application and the Program Director.

Any applicant awarded funds in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity will be subject to the DUNS, SAM Registration, and Federal Funding Accountability And Transparency Act Of 2006 (FFATA) requirements.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive notification of these results by e-mail with delivery receipt or by U.S. mail.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The following Administrative Requirements (AR) apply to this NOFO:

- *AR-7: Executive Order 12372 Review*
- *AR-8: Public Health System Reporting Requirements*
- *AR-9: Paperwork Reduction Act Requirements*
- *AR-10: Smoke-Free Workplace Requirements*
- *AR-11: Healthy People 2030*
- *AR-12: Lobbying Restrictions*
- *AR-13: Prohibition on Use of CDC Funds for Certain Gun Control Activities*
- *AR-8: Public Health System Reporting Requirements*
- *AR-15: Proof of Non-profit Status*
- *AR-23: Compliance with 45 CFR Part 87*
- *AR-14: Accounting System Requirements*
- *AR-16: Security Clearance Requirement*
- *AR-21: Small, Minority, And Women-owned Business*
- *AR-24: Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Requirements*
- *AR-25: Data Management and Access*
- *AR-26: National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*
- *AR-29: Compliance with EO13513, "Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging while Driving", October 1, 2009*
- *AR-30: Information Letter 10-006, - Compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*
- *AR-32: Enacted General Provisions*
- *AR-34: Language Access for Persons with Limited English Proficiency*
- *AR-37: Prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment for all awards issued on or after August 13, 2020*

Recipients are also expected to adhere to administrative requirements relating to nondiscrimination contained in Standard Form 424B (Rev. 7-97): Assurances - Non-Construction Programs, prescribed by OMB Circular A-102.

The full text of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards, 45 CFR 75, can be found at: https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?node=pt45.1.75

3. Reporting

Reporting provides continuous program monitoring and identifies successes and challenges that recipients encounter throughout the project period. Also, reporting is a requirement for recipients who want to apply for yearly continuation of funding. Reporting helps CDC and recipients because it:

- Helps target support to recipients;
- Provides CDC with periodic data to monitor recipient progress toward meeting the Notice of Funding Opportunity outcomes and overall performance;
- Allows CDC to track performance measures and evaluation findings for continuous quality and program improvement throughout the period of performance and to determine applicability of evidence-based approaches to different populations, settings, and contexts; and
- Enables CDC to assess the overall effectiveness and influence of the NOFO.

The table below summarizes required and optional reports. All required reports must be sent electronically to GMS listed in the "Agency Contacts" section of the NOFO copying the CDC Project Officer.

Report Type	When?	Required?
Expenditure Reporting	Quarterly expenditure reports are due 60 days into the award and at the end of each fiscal quarter thereafter through the period of performance.	Yes
Payment Management System (PMS) Reporting	Quarterly reports are due 60 days into the award and at the end of each fiscal quarter thereafter through the period of performance.	Yes
Progress Reporting	Quarterly progress reports are due 6o days into the award and at the end of each fiscal quarter thereafter through the period of performance.	Yes
Federal Financial Reporting Forms	Due 90 days after the end of the budget period	Yes
Final Performance and Financial Report	Due 90 days after end of period of performance	Yes

There may be flexibility in reporting deadlines. CDC will communicate updates or revisions to reporting requirements as appropriate.

Quarterly expenditure and progress reports will be submitted via the Research Electronic Data Capture, or otherwise known as REDCap. CDC will provide training and technical assistance for recipients on REDCap post-award.

a. Recipient Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan (required)
With support from CDC, recipients must elaborate on their initial applicant evaluation and performance measurement plan. This plan must be no more than 20 pages; recipients must submit the plan 6 months into the award. HHS/CDC will review and approve the recipient's monitoring and evaluation plan to ensure that it is appropriate for the activities to be undertaken as part of the agreement, for compliance with the monitoring and evaluation guidance established by HHS/CDC, or other guidance otherwise applicable to this Agreement.

Recipient Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan (required): This plan should provide additional detail on the following:

Performance Measurement

• Performance measures and targets
• The frequency that performance data are to be collected.
• How performance data will be reported.
• How quality of performance data will be assured.
• How performance measurement will yield findings to demonstrate progress towards achieving NOFO goals (e.g., reaching target populations or achieving expected outcomes).
• Dissemination channels and audiences.
• Other information requested as determined by the CDC program.

Evaluation

• The types of evaluations to be conducted (e.g. process or outcome evaluations).
• The frequency that evaluations will be conducted.
• How evaluation reports will be published on a publically available website.
• How evaluation findings will be used to ensure continuous quality and program improvement.
• How evaluation will yield findings to demonstrate the value of the NOFO (e.g., effect on improving public health outcomes, effectiveness of NOFO, cost-effectiveness or cost-benefit).
• Dissemination channels and audiences.

HHS/CDC or its designee will also undertake monitoring and evaluation of the defined activities within the agreement. The recipient must ensure reasonable access by HHS/CDC or its designee to all necessary sites, documentation, individuals and information to monitor, evaluate and verify the appropriate implementation the activities and use of HHS/CDC funding under this Agreement.

b. Annual Performance Report (APR) (required)

The recipient must submit the APR via www.Grantsolutions.gov no later than 120 days prior to the end of the budget period. This report must not exceed 45 pages excluding administrative reporting. Attachments are not allowed, but web links are allowed.

This report must include the following:

- **Performance Measures:** Recipients must report on performance measures for each budget period and update measures, if needed.
- **Evaluation Results:** Recipients must report evaluation results for the work completed to date (including findings from process or outcome evaluations).
- **Work Plan:** Recipients must update work plan each budget period to reflect any changes in period of performance outcomes, activities, timeline, etc.
- **Successes**
    - Recipients must report progress on completing activities and progress towards achieving the period of performance outcomes described in the logic model and work plan.
    - Recipients must describe any additional successes (e.g. identified through evaluation results or lessons learned) achieved in the past year.
    - Recipients must describe success stories.
- **Challenges**
    - Recipients must describe any challenges that hindered or might hinder their ability to complete the work plan activities and achieve the period of performance outcomes.
    - Recipients must describe any additional challenges (e.g., identified through evaluation results or lessons learned) encountered in the past year.
- **CDC Program Support to Recipients**
    - Recipients must describe how CDC could help them overcome challenges to complete activities in the work plan and achieving period of performance outcomes.
- **Administrative Reporting** (No page limit)
    - SF-424A Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs.
    - Budget Narrative – Must use the format outlined in "Content and Form of Application Submission, Budget Narrative" section.
    - Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.

The recipients must submit the Annual Performance Report via www.Grantsolutions.gov no later than 120 days prior to the end of the budget period.

c. Performance Measure Reporting (optional)

CDC programs may require more frequent reporting of performance measures than annually in the APR. If this is the case, CDC programs must specify reporting frequency, data fields, and format for recipients at the beginning of the award period.

d. Federal Financial Reporting (FFR) (required)

The annual FFR form (SF-425) is required and must be submitted 90 days after the end of the budget period through the Payment Management System (PMS). The report must include only those funds authorized and disbursed during the timeframe covered by the report. The final FFR must indicate the exact balance of unobligated funds, and may not reflect any unliquidated obligations. There must be no discrepancies between the final FFR expenditure data and the Payment Management System's (PMS) cash transaction data. Failure to submit the required information by the due date may adversely affect the future funding of the project. If the information cannot be provided by the due date, recipients are required to submit a letter of explanation to OGS and include the date by which the Grants Officer will receive information.

e. Final Performance and Financial Report (required)

The Final Performance Report is due 90 days after the end of the period of performance. The Final FFR is due 90 days after the end of the period of performance and must be submitted through the Payment Management System (PMS). CDC programs must indicate that this report should not exceed 40 pages. This report covers the entire period of performance and can include information previously reported in APRs. At a minimum, this report must include the following:

- Performance Measures – Recipients must report final performance data for all process and outcome performance measures.
- Evaluation Results – Recipients must report final evaluation results for the period of performance for any evaluations conducted.
- Impact/Results/Success Stories – Recipients must use their performance measure results and their evaluation findings to describe the effects or results of the work completed over the project period, and can include some success stories.
- A final Data Management Plan that includes the location of the data collected during the funded period, for example, repository name and link data set(s)
- Additional forms as described in the Notice of Award (e.g., Equipment Inventory Report, Final Invention Statement).

4. Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA)

Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA), P.L. 109–282, as amended by section 6202 of P.L. 110–252 requires full disclosure of all entities and organizations receiving Federal funds including awards, contracts, loans, other assistance, and payments through a single publicly accessible Web site, http://www.USASpending.gov.

Compliance with this law is primarily the responsibility of the Federal agency. However, two elements of the law require information to be collected and reported by applicants: 1) information on executive compensation when not already reported through the SAM, and 2) similar information on all sub-awards/subcontracts/consortiums over $25,000.

For the full text of the requirements under the FFATA and HHS guidelines, go to:

- https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-109publ282/pdf/PLAW-109publ282.pdf,
- https://www. fsrs.gov/documents /ffata_legislation_ 110_252.pdf
- http://www.hhs.gov/grants/grants/grants-policies-regulations/index.html#FFATA.

5. Reporting of Foreign Taxes (International/Foreign projects only)

A. Valued Added Tax (VAT) and Customs Duties – Customs and import duties, consular fees, customs surtax, valued added taxes, and other related charges are hereby authorized as an allowable cost for costs incurred for non-host governmental entities operating where no applicable tax exemption exists. This waiver does not apply to countries where a bilateral agreement (or similar legal document) is already in place providing applicable tax exemptions and it is not applicable to Ministries of Health. Successful applicants will receive information on VAT requirements via their Notice of Award.

B. The U.S. Department of State requires that agencies collect and report information on the amount of taxes assessed, reimbursed and not reimbursed by a foreign government against commodities financed with funds appropriated by the U.S. Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act (SFOAA) ("United States foreign assistance funds"). Outlined below are the specifics of this requirement:

1) Annual Report: The recipient must submit a report on or before November 16 for each foreign country on the amount of foreign taxes charged, as of September 30 of the same year, by a foreign government on commodity purchase transactions valued at 500 USD or more financed with United States foreign assistance funds under this grant during the prior United States fiscal year (October 1 – September 30), and the amount reimbursed and unreimbursed by the foreign government. [Reports are required even if the recipient did not pay any taxes during the reporting period.]

2) Quarterly Report: The recipient must quarterly submit a report on the amount of foreign taxes charged by a foreign government on commodity purchase transactions valued at 500 USD or more financed with United States foreign assistance funds under this grant. This report shall be submitted no later than two weeks following the end of each quarter: April 15, July 15, October 15 and January 15.

3) Terms: For purposes of this clause:
"Commodity" means any material, article, supplies, goods, or equipment;
"Foreign government" includes any foreign government entity;
"Foreign taxes" means value-added taxes and custom duties assessed by a foreign government on a commodity. It does not include foreign sales taxes.

4) Where: Submit the reports to the Director and Deputy Director of the CDC office in the country(ies) in which you are carrying out the activities associated with this cooperative agreement. In countries where there is no CDC office, send reports to VATreporting@cdc.gov.

5) Contents of Reports: The reports must contain:

a. recipient name;
b. contact name with phone, fax, and e-mail;
c. agreement number(s) if reporting by agreement(s);
d. reporting period;
e. amount of foreign taxes assessed by each foreign government;
f. amount of any foreign taxes reimbursed by each foreign government;
g. amount of foreign taxes unreimbursed by each foreign government.

6) Subagreements. The recipient must include this reporting requirement in all applicable subgrants and other subagreements.

6. Termination

CDC may impose other enforcement actions in accordance with 45 CFR 75.371- Remedies for Noncompliance, as appropriate.

The Federal award may be terminated in whole or in part as follows:

(1) By the HHS awarding agency or pass-through entity, if the non-Federal entity fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the award;

(2) By the HHS awarding agency or pass-through entity for cause;

(3) By the HHS awarding agency or pass-through entity with the consent of the non-Federal entity, in which case the two parties must agree upon the termination conditions, including the effective date and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated; or

(4) By the non-Federal entity upon sending to the HHS awarding agency or pass-through entity written notification setting forth the reasons for such termination, the effective date, and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated. However, if the HHS awarding agency or pass-through entity determines in the case of partial termination that the reduced or modified portion of the Federal award or subaward will not accomplish the purposes for which the Federal award was made, the HHS awarding agency or pass-through entity may terminate the Federal award in its entirety.

G. Agency Contacts

CDC encourages inquiries concerning this notice of funding opportunity.

Program Office Contact

For programmatic technical assistance, contact:

First Name:
Stacey
Last Name:
Mattison Jenkins
Project Officer
Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Address:

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support
Division of Program and Partnership Services
1825 Century Center Blvd., Mailstop V18-1
Atlanta, GA 30345

Telephone:

Email:
OT21-2103Support@cdc.gov

Grants Staff Contact

For **financial, awards management, or budget assistance,** contact:

First Name:
Shirley

Last Name:
Byrd
Grants Management Specialist
Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Grants Services

Address:

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Office of Grants Services

2939 Flowers Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

Telephone:
(770) 488-2591

Email:
yuo6@cdc.gov

For assistance with **submission difficulties related to** www.grants.gov, contact the Contact Center by phone at 1-800-518-4726.

Hours of Operation: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

CDC Telecommunications for persons with hearing loss is available at: TTY 1-888-232-6348

H. Other Information

Following is a list of acceptable attachments **applicants** can upload as PDF files as part of their application at www.grants.gov. Applicants may not attach documents other than those listed; if other documents are attached, applications will not be reviewed.

- Project Abstract
- Project Narrative

- Budget Narrative
- CDC Assurances and Certifications
- Report on Programmatic, Budgetary and Commitment Overlap
- Table of Contents for Entire Submission

For international NOFOs:

- SF424
- SF424A
- Funding Preference Deliverables

Optional attachments, as determined by CDC programs:

References

[1] Michener L, Aguilar-Gaxiola S, Alberti PM, Castaneda MJ, Castrucci BC, Harrison LM, et al. Engaging With Communities — Lessons (Re)Learned From COVID-19. Prev Chronic Dis 2020;17:200250. https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2020/20_0250.htm

2] US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID-19 cases, data, and surveillance: hospitalization and death by race/ethnicity. Accessed October 12, 2020. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-race-ethnicity.html

[3] Rubin-Miller L, Alban C, Artiga S, Sullivan S. COVID-19 racial disparities in testing, infection, hospitalization, and death: analysis of Epic data. Published September 16, 2020. Accessed October 12, 2020. https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/covid-19-racial-disparities-testing-infection-hospitalization-death-analysis-epic-patient-data/

[4] Paul R, Arif A, Pokhrel K, Ghosh S. The association of social determinants of health with COVID-19
mortality in rural and urban counties. Journal of Rural Health. 2021;1-9. https://doi.org/10.1111/jrh.12557

I. Glossary

Activities: The actual events or actions that take place as a part of the program.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements, Additional Requirements (ARs): Administrative requirements found in 45 CFR Part 75 and other requirements mandated by statute or CDC policy. All ARs are listed in the Template for CDC programs. CDC programs must indicate which ARs are relevant to the NOFO; recipients must comply with the ARs listed in the NOFO. To view brief descriptions of relevant provisions, see http:// www.cdc.gov/ grants/ additional requirements/ index.html. Note that 2 CFR 200 supersedes the administrative requirements (A-110 & A-102), cost principles (A-21, A-87 & A-122) and audit requirements (A-50, A-89 & A-133).

Approved but Unfunded: Approved but unfunded refers to applications recommended for approval during the objective review process; however, they were not recommended for funding by the program office and/or the grants management office.

Assistance Listings: A government-wide compendium published by the General Services Administration (available on-line in searchable format as well as in printable format as a .pdf file) that describes domestic assistance programs administered by the Federal Government.

Assistance Listings Number: A unique number assigned to each program and NOFO throughout its lifecycle that enables data and funding tracking and transparency

Award: Financial assistance that provides support or stimulation to accomplish a public purpose. Awards include grants and other agreements (e.g., cooperative agreements) in the form of money, or property in lieu of money, by the federal government to an eligible applicant.

Budget Period or Budget Year: The duration of each individual funding period within the project period. Traditionally, budget periods are 12 months or 1 year.

Carryover: Unobligated federal funds remaining at the end of any budget period that, with the approval of the GMO or under an automatic authority, may be carried over to another budget period to cover allowable costs of that budget period either as an offset or additional authorization. Obligated but liquidated funds are not considered carryover.

CDC Assurances and Certifications: Standard government-wide grant application forms.

Competing Continuation Award: A financial assistance mechanism that adds funds to a grant and adds one or more budget periods to the previously established period of performance (i.e., extends the "life" of the award).

Continuous Quality Improvement: A system that seeks to improve the provision of services with an emphasis on future results.

Contracts: An award instrument used to acquire (by purchase, lease, or barter) property or services for the direct benefit or use of the Federal Government.

Cooperative Agreement: A financial assistance award with the same kind of interagency relationship as a grant except that it provides for substantial involvement by the federal agency funding the award. Substantial involvement means that the recipient can expect federal programmatic collaboration or participation in carrying out the effort under the award.

Cost Sharing or Matching: Refers to program costs not borne by the Federal Government but by the recipients. It may include the value of allowable third-party, in-kind contributions, as well as expenditures by the recipient.

Direct Assistance: A financial assistance mechanism, which must be specifically authorized by statute, whereby goods or services are provided to recipients in lieu of cash. DA generally involves the assignment of federal personnel or the provision of equipment or supplies, such as vaccines. DA is primarily used to support payroll and travel expenses of CDC employees assigned to state, tribal, local, and territorial (STLT) health agencies that are recipients of grants and cooperative agreements. Most legislative authorities that provide financial assistance to STLT health agencies allow for the use of DA. http:// www.cdc.gov /grants /additionalrequirements /index.html.

DUNS: The Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number is a nine-digit number assigned by Dun and Bradstreet Information Services. When applying for Federal awards or cooperative agreements, all applicant organizations must obtain a DUNS number as the Universal Identifier. DUNS number assignment is free. If requested by telephone, a DUNS number will be provided immediately at no charge. If requested via the Internet, obtaining a DUNS number may take one to two days at no charge. If an organization does not know its DUNS number or needs to register for one, visit Dun & Bradstreet at http://fedgov.dnb.com/ webform/displayHomePage.do.

Evaluation (program evaluation): The systematic collection of information about the activities, characteristics, and outcomes of programs (which may include interventions, policies, and specific projects) to make judgments about that program, improve program effectiveness, and/or inform decisions about future program development.

Evaluation Plan: A written document describing the overall approach that will be used to guide an evaluation, including why the evaluation is being conducted, how the findings will likely be used, and the design and data collection sources and methods. The plan specifies what will be done, how it will be done, who will do it, and when it will be done. The NOFO evaluation plan is used to describe how the recipient and/or CDC will determine whether activities are implemented appropriately and outcomes are achieved.

Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA): Requires that information about federal awards, including awards, contracts, loans, and other assistance and payments, be available to the public on a single website at www.USAspending.gov.

Fiscal Year: The year for which budget dollars are allocated annually. The federal fiscal year starts October 1 and ends September 30.

Grant: A legal instrument used by the federal government to transfer anything of value to a recipient for public support or stimulation authorized by statute. Financial assistance may be money or property. The definition does not include a federal procurement subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulation; technical assistance (which provides services instead of money); or assistance in the form of revenue sharing, loans, loan guarantees, interest subsidies, insurance, or direct payments of any kind to a person or persons. The main difference between a grant and a cooperative agreement is that in a grant there is no anticipated substantial programmatic involvement by the federal government under the award.

Grants.gov: A "storefront" web portal for electronic data collection (forms and reports) for federal grant-making agencies at www.grants.gov.

Grants Management Officer (GMO): The individual designated to serve as the HHS official responsible for the business management aspects of a particular grant(s) or cooperative agreement(s). The GMO serves as the counterpart to the business officer of the recipient organization. In this capacity, the GMO is responsible for all business management matters associated with the review, negotiation, award, and administration of grants and interprets grants administration policies and provisions. The GMO works closely with the program or project officer who is responsible for the scientific, technical, and programmatic aspects of the grant.

Grants Management Specialist (GMS): A federal staff member who oversees the business and other non-programmatic aspects of one or more grants and/or cooperative agreements. These

activities include, but are not limited to, evaluating grant applications for administrative content and compliance with regulations and guidelines, negotiating grants, providing consultation and technical assistance to recipients, post-award administration and closing out grants.

Health Disparities: Differences in health outcomes and their determinants among segments of the population as defined by social, demographic, environmental, or geographic category.

Health Equity: Striving for the highest possible standard of health for all people and giving special attention to the needs of those at greatest risk of poor health, based on social conditions.

Health Inequities: Systematic, unfair, and avoidable differences in health outcomes and their determinants between segments of the population, such as by socioeconomic status (SES), demographics, or geography.

Healthy People 2030: National health objectives aimed at improving the health of all Americans by encouraging collaboration across sectors, guiding people toward making informed health decisions, and measuring the effects of prevention activities.

Inclusion: Both the meaningful involvement of a community's members in all stages of the program process and the maximum involvement of the target population that the intervention will benefit. Inclusion ensures that the views, perspectives, and needs of affected communities, care providers, and key partners are considered.

Indirect Costs: Costs that are incurred for common or joint objectives and not readily and specifically identifiable with a particular sponsored project, program, or activity; nevertheless, these costs are necessary to the operations of the organization. For example, the costs of operating and maintaining facilities, depreciation, and administrative salaries generally are considered indirect costs.

Intergovernmental Review: Executive Order 12372 governs applications subject to Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. This order sets up a system for state and local governmental review of proposed federal assistance applications. Contact the state single point of contact (SPOC) to alert the SPOC to prospective applications and to receive instructions on the State's process. Visit the following web address to get the current SPOC list: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Intergovernmental_-Review-_SPOC_01_2018_OFFM.pdf.

Letter of Intent (LOI): A preliminary, non-binding indication of an organization's intent to submit an application.

Lobbying: Direct lobbying includes any attempt to influence legislation, appropriations, regulations, administrative actions, executive orders (legislation or other orders), or other similar deliberations at any level of government through communication that directly expresses a view on proposed or pending legislation or other orders, and which is directed to staff members or other employees of a legislative body, government officials, or employees who participate in formulating legislation or other orders. Grass roots lobbying includes efforts directed at inducing or encouraging members of the public to contact their elected representatives at the federal, state, or local levels to urge support of, or opposition to, proposed or pending legislative proposals.

Logic Model: A visual representation showing the sequence of related events connecting the activities of a program with the programs' desired outcomes and results.

Maintenance of Effort: A requirement contained in authorizing legislation, or applicable regulations that a recipient must agree to contribute and maintain a specified level of financial effort from its own resources or other non-government sources to be eligible to receive federal grant funds. This requirement is typically given in terms of meeting a previous base-year dollar amount.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Memorandum of Agreement (MOA): Document that describes a bilateral or multilateral agreement between parties expressing a convergence of will between the parties, indicating an intended common line of action. It is often used in cases where the parties either do not imply a legal commitment or cannot create a legally enforceable agreement.

Nonprofit Organization: Any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organization that is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest; is not organized for profit; and uses net proceeds to maintain, improve, or expand the operations of the organization. Nonprofit organizations include institutions of higher educations, hospitals, and tribal organizations (that is, Indian entities other than federally recognized Indian tribal governments).

Notice of Award (NoA): The official document, signed (or the electronic equivalent of signature) by a Grants Management Officer that: (1) notifies the recipient of the award of a grant; (2) contains or references all the terms and conditions of the grant and Federal funding limits and obligations; and (3) provides the documentary basis for recording the obligation of Federal funds in the HHS accounting system.

Objective Review: A process that involves the thorough and consistent examination of applications based on an unbiased evaluation of scientific or technical merit or other relevant aspects of the proposal. The review is intended to provide advice to the persons responsible for making award decisions.

Outcome: The results of program operations or activities; the effects triggered by the program. For example, increased knowledge, changed attitudes or beliefs, reduced tobacco use, reduced morbidity and mortality.

Performance Measurement: The ongoing monitoring and reporting of program accomplishments, particularly progress toward pre-established goals, typically conducted by program or agency management. Performance measurement may address the type or level of program activities conducted (process), the direct products and services delivered by a program (outputs), or the results of those products and services (outcomes). A "program" may be any activity, project, function, or policy that has an identifiable purpose or set of objectives.

Period of performance –formerly known as the project period - : The time during which the recipient may incur obligations to carry out the work authorized under the Federal award. The start and end dates of the period of performance must be included in the Federal award.

Period of Performance Outcome: An outcome that will occur by the end of the NOFO's funding period

Plain Writing Act of 2010: The Plain Writing Act of 2010 requires that federal agencies use clear communication that the public can understand and use. NOFOs must be written in clear,

consistent language so that any reader can understand expectations and intended outcomes of the funded program. CDC programs should use NOFO plain writing tips when writing NOFOs.

Program Strategies: Strategies are groupings of related activities, usually expressed as general headers (e.g., Partnerships, Assessment, Policy) or as brief statements (e.g., Form partnerships, Conduct assessments, Formulate policies).

Program Official: Person responsible for developing the NOFO; can be either a project officer, program manager, branch chief, division leader, policy official, center leader, or similar staff member.

Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB): A nonprofit organization that works to promote and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of public health departments in the U.S. through national public health department accreditation http://www.phaboard.org.

Social Determinants of Health: Conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

Statute: An act of the legislature; a particular law enacted and established by the will of the legislative department of government, expressed with the requisite formalities. In foreign or civil law any particular municipal law or usage, though resting for its authority on judicial decisions, or the practice of nations.

Statutory Authority: Authority provided by legal statute that establishes a federal financial assistance program or award.

System for Award Management (SAM): The primary vendor database for the U.S. federal government. SAM validates applicant information and electronically shares secure and encrypted data with federal agencies' finance offices to facilitate paperless payments through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). SAM stores organizational information, allowing www.grants.gov to verify identity and pre-fill organizational information on grant applications.

Technical Assistance: Advice, assistance, or training pertaining to program development, implementation, maintenance, or evaluation that is provided by the funding agency.

Work Plan: The summary of period of performance outcomes, strategies and activities, personnel and/or partners who will complete the activities, and the timeline for completion. The work plan will outline the details of all necessary activities that will be supported through the approved budget.

NOFO-specific Glossary and Acronyms

Health equity (2) is achieved when every person has the opportunity to "attain his or her full health potential" and no one is "disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances."

Underserved communities refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life. Populations can include but are not limited to: African American, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific

Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural communities; and persons otherwise adversely impacted by persistent poverty or inequality (Definition modified from the *Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, January 20, 2021)*.