

**Questions and Answers for RFA: PREDICT – USAID-M-OAA-GH-HSR-09-877
AND RESPOND – USAID-M-OAA-GH-HSR-09-878**

1. Question:

What are the actual closing dates for the RFA PREDICT and RFA RESPOND

Answer: Please note there are DIFFERENT DATES for the two RFAs –

The closing time of 12:00 PM remains unchanged for both RFAs

- a. PREDICT – Closing Date for Applications – July 27, 2009
- b. RESPOND – Closing Date for Applications – July 31, 2009

2. Question:

Can a U.S. Government Agency receive an award in response to an RFA as a Prime recipient or as a sub recipient?

Answer:

No. A U.S. Government Agency can not receive an award under an RFA either as a prime nor a sub recipient.

3. Question:

The RFA mentions only viral pathogens, but there are other zoonotic pathogens (parasites, bacteria) that can be considered zoonotic. Will the activities focus exclusively on viruses or should other pathogens also be considered?

Answer:

USAID's intention was to provide a framework so Applicants would understand what USAID was expecting the project to achieve. We expect that Applicants will propose ideas, approaches, and strategies based on their own knowledge and experience, and it is possible that areas, host species and/or pathogens (viral, parasites, bacterial, etc) may vary from those specifically listed in the RFA. Specifically on page 41 of the PREDICT RFA:

For application purposes, the applicant should assume that the surveillance systems would focus, at a minimum, on the following pathogens:

- i. Retroviruses
- ii. Influenza
- iii. Corona Viruses
- iv. Filoviruses
- v. Nipah Virus

The Applicant may propose additional pathogens with adequate justification.

4. Question:

The RFA identifies both wild animal and domestic animal 'hot spots' for further surveillance and investigation. In most countries, these are domains that involved very different sets of actors including ministries, NGOs, and other authorities. Given a limited budget, what proportional balance should the applicant aim for between wild and domestic hotspots? Similarly, are there priority pathogens within each domain?

**Questions and Answers for RFA: PREDICT – USAID-M-OAA-GH-HSR-09-877
AND RESPOND – USAID-M-OAA-GH-HSR-09-878**

Answer:

USAID is expecting applicants to propose a program and approach that achieves the goals and objectives of the RFA. It is important to keep in-mind that novel pathogens are rare occurrences, and developing and improving the surveillance of known pathogens will help to detect the unknown and rare pathogens. USAID does not expect a significant amount of resources to be directed towards domestic animal surveillance because USAID is already working on this issue with other partners including, but not limited to, FAO.

5. Question:

What proportional balance should the applicant aim for between surveillance for known pathogens and identification/surveillance of novel pathogens?

Answer:

Applicants should propose a program that strikes an appropriate balance to achieve the goals and objectives of the RFA. USAID is seeking informed, innovative approaches that expand upon the issues presented in the RFA.

6. Question:

Is there an estimated timeline for activities? For example, the identification of surveillance sites and hotspots is dependent on the assessment and modeling activities. Are applicants expected to be producing surveillance data within the first year of the project, or will these data collection activities grow from the other activities?

Answer:

The Applicants should propose a program that is comprehensive, innovative, and feasible.

7. Question:

Given the other pieces of the whole Zoonotic Diseases package, including RESPOND which focuses on capacity building, what is the expected level of effort and technical components for capacity building within the PREDICT mechanism?

Answer:

PREDICT is both a surveillance and a capacity building/development project. The Applicant is expected to propose a program that addresses both capacity building/development as well as improved surveillance, data collection, and analysis.

8. Question:

Should applicants provide sample staffing and budget for field offices in the specified hotspots? If so, just one sample, or examples from each of the 4 areas?

Answer:

Applicants should provide a staffing pattern that matches the technical approach presented in the application and it should be budgeted for accordingly in the cost application. Please refer to IV.B.2 (Staffing) in the RFA for further instructions on how to present staff in the application.

**Questions and Answers for RFA: PREDICT – USAID-M-OAA-GH-HSR-09-877
AND RESPOND – USAID-M-OAA-GH-HSR-09-878**

9. Question:

Developing surveillance systems, particularly in resource limited settings, can entail purchasing and maintaining very specific technical and laboratory equipment and supplies. To what extent is this project intended to procure equipment and supplies for the surveillance sites?

Answer:

The recipient of PREDICT is expected to cover the costs associated with sample collection and transport. The Applicant should propose and budget for all necessary equipment and technical supplies it would require to develop the proposed surveillance system.

10. Question:

What is the expected distribution of the project budget between US-based activities and field activities?

Answer:

The Applicant is expected to propose a program and approach that achieves the goals and objectives of the RFA and the Applicant should provide a rationale for the allocation between US-based activities and field activities.

11. Question:

USAID states that applicants should provide electronic versions of their technical and business volumes on CD-ROM, with all tables/exhibits in Word or Excel format. For signed portions of the responses (letters of commitment and support, certifications, NICRAs, etc.), is it acceptable to provide the files in Adobe PDF?

Answer:

Applicants may provide signature pages in Adobe PDF.

12. Question:

Does USAID require three past performance references from each partner organization/ subcontractor or a total of three for the entire team?

Answer:

Applicants must provide three (3) past performance references from the prime applicant AND three (3) PPR from each sub or partner organization that is proposing to implement at least 10% of the value of the project. These references must describe any contracts, grants, cooperative agreements which the applicant organization, as well as any substantive sub-grantee partners, has implemented involving similar or related programs over the past three years.

**Questions and Answers for RFA: PREDICT – USAID-M-OAA-GH-HSR-09-877
AND RESPOND – USAID-M-OAA-GH-HSR-09-878**

13. Question:

Does USAID require all partner organizations/subcontractors to provide the certifications listed in RFA Section VII, Part I (RFA pages 125-129) and Section VII, Part VI (RFA pages 131-135), or only the primary applicant?

Answer:

Certifications and Representations found in this RFA must be completed and submitted with the application. These Certs and Reps are to be signed by the authorizing party from each and every organization; from the PRIME and all subcontractors; they should be submitted WITH the other required documents in the application.

14. Question:

Could USAID specify who is required to complete Section VII, Part II – Key Individual Certification Narcotics Offenses and Drug Trafficking (pages 129-130 of the RFA), and who is required to complete Section VII, Part III – Participant Certification Narcotics Offenses and Drug Trafficking (pages 130-131 of the RFA)?

Answer:

The party to sign Section VII, Part II and Section VII, Part III would be the same party that has the authority to sign the application that is submitted – typically a senior officer of the organization who is authorized to sign a legally enforceable agreement. Sub-grantees/partners are also required to submit these same signed documents.

15. Question:

What are the requirements of the AI data tracking system (AIMEBA)?

Answer:

AIMEBA requires standard financial data including expenditures and accruals as well as a provision of data to support evaluation indicators.

16. Question:

What is the difference between the quarterly financial reporting required under I.1 and that required under I.2.c.v.?

Answer:

Section I.1 refers to the official financial reporting that the Applicant will be required to submit to USAID Financial Management Office (M/FM/CMP-LOC Unit). Section I.2.c.v refers to the financial information that will be included in the technical quarterly reports (which is to a great extent a summation of the financial report that is submitted to the Financial Management Office) and the data that is required for AIMEBA (expenditures and accruals).

17. Question:

Define what is meant by "all technical interpretations and re-directions of the Program Description" will required AOTR concurrence and be subject to AO approval." Is this

**Questions and Answers for RFA: PREDICT – USAID-M-OAA-GH-HSR-09-877
AND RESPOND – USAID-M-OAA-GH-HSR-09-878**

intended to refer to changes of scope and the items in the "Substantial Involvement" list, or is this a more broad-based interpretation?

Answer:

The statement made is a broad based statement. Applicants should refer to the specific language in Section II – D SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT.

18. Question:

The past performance requirement (p. 44) asks for evidence that "the applicant has the ability to carry out a successful community-based malaria project." Is "malaria" a mistake?

The requirements outlined in the detail section have the more typical language of "similar or related programs". Which is correct?

Answer:

The reference to malaria was in error. Please disregard the malaria and provide information on "similar or related programs."

19. Question:

What is meant by the statement on p. 45 that consortium partners expressly agree that "to be held jointly and severally liable for the acts or omissions of the other"? This is not consistent with normal subcontracting practice, and it is not possible for public entities to assume third-party liabilities (other parties may also not be able to assume such liabilities.)

Answer:

As the prime, you are responsible for the project. As a result the following statement is included in Section IV – C – Cost/Business Application. "The agreement should include a full discussion of the relationship between the Applicants including identification of the Applicant with which USAID will treat for purposes of Agreement administration, identity of the Applicant which will have accounting responsibility, how Agreement effort will be allocated and the express agreement of the principals thereto to be held jointly and severally liable for the acts or omissions of the other."

20. Question:

Do we need to complete the Reps n' Certs at the time of the proposal or will this be done at time of award (including the detailed list of procurement items shown on pp. 135-136 and the estimated costs associated with communications products in p. 137?

Answer:

Regarding Certifications and Representations please see question 13. Certifications and Representations must be submitted along WITH the application.

Regarding procurement items and costs, please review PART VI - OTHER STATEMENTS OF RECIPIENT – 5. PROCUREMENT INFORMATION to determine if the structure of the program you are proposing requires these expenditures – if so, you are required to provide this cost and detail information.

**Questions and Answers for RFA: PREDICT – USAID-M-OAA-GH-HSR-09-877
AND RESPOND – USAID-M-OAA-GH-HSR-09-878**

21. Question:

Why is OMB-A21 not listed on the applicable regulations and references?

Answer:

OMB-21 is included on the Mandatory Standard Provisions for U.S., Nongovernmental Recipients listed in ANNEX A. – REFERENCES; A. Applicable Regulations & References – <http://www.usaid.gov/pubs/ads/300/303maa.pdf>

22. Question:

Is there a maximum page limit for CVs in the annex?

Answer:

Please limit resumes and CVs to no more than 4 pages each.

23. Question:

On page 39 (Section E), the RFA states an interest in cost sharing—is this accurate? Applicants under this RFA are encouraged to leverage their own non-U.S. Government Resources to contribute to the total cost of the RESPOND project.

Answer:

Yes, this reference is accurate. Applicants under this RFA are encouraged to leverage their own non-U.S. Government resources to contribute to the total cost of the Project.

24. Question:

On page 39 (Section F), the total funding value is estimated to be \$75 million while the announcement on grants.gov indicates a different project value (\$185 million). Please verify what the correct funding is for this five-year cooperative agreement?

Answer:

PREDICT has an estimated value of \$75 million. RESPOND has an estimated value of \$185 million.

25. Question:

How many PPRs is the applicant responsible to send? A total of 3 for the entire application or 3 each for the applicant organization, substantive sub-grantee partners, etc.,.

Answer:

Please see question 12.

26. Question:

On page 41 of the RFA it states that “any graphics/tables must be formatted in MS Word 2000 or Excel 2000.” Can we use other MS OFFICE 2000 (PowerPoint) products for graphics and tables?

**Questions and Answers for RFA: PREDICT – USAID-M-OAA-GH-HSR-09-877
AND RESPOND – USAID-M-OAA-GH-HSR-09-878**

Answer:

In order to maintain access to formulas and graphics we require MS Word 2003 or MS Excel 2003 formats.

27. Question:

Are graphics and tables included in the page limit?

Answer:

See Section IV – B – TECHNICAL APPLICATION for page limits of cover page, executive summary and technical narrative. Graphics and tables used for demonstration or illustration in these sections will be included in the page limits stated.

28. Question:

Please confirm that budgets for sample testing for the pathogens identified in the PREDICT RFA and for which we are primarily designing our surveillance system will be contained in IDENTIFY.

Answer:

No. The Applicant should budget for all costs related to the collection, transport, and testing of samples obtained as part of the PREDICT surveillance system.

29. Question:

Will the selected PREDICT team be involved in the process of selecting laboratories for this testing? Our experienced wildlife surveillance team recognizes the challenges associated with choosing regional laboratories for capacity improvement. We believe that a proposed surveillance plan can be successful only if the selected PREDICT team is involved in the assessment and selection of laboratories to analyze the collected samples.

Answer:

The PREDICT team will play a role in selecting the laboratories for the testing of the samples collected as part of the PREDICT project.

30. Question:

The PREDICT application will include details on an optimal wildlife surveillance scheme. Can it be assumed that sample analysis capacity for the pathogens listed in the RFA and the sample scope and scale detailed in the selected PREDICT application will be accommodated through IDENTIFY? We understand that if our application is successful and our team is selected, the final details will be refined in the workplan development process.

Answer:

IDENTIFY will be building capacity of laboratories and laboratory networks, however, the Applicant should not assume that sample analysis, scope, and detail will be handled by IDENTIFY for the samples collected as part of the PREDICT surveillance system.

**Questions and Answers for RFA: PREDICT – USAID-M-OAA-GH-HSR-09-877
AND RESPOND – USAID-M-OAA-GH-HSR-09-878**

31. Question:

Can human samples collected in tandem with wildlife samples, as part of the sampling design to identify sharing of pathogens of pandemic potential, also be analyzed through IDENTIFY?

Answer:

The Applicant should account and budget for all costs related to sample collection, transport, testing, and analysis of samples collected as part of the PREDICT surveillance system regardless of whether they are animal or human samples.

32. Question:

Will IDENTIFY primarily support the testing of samples and improved capacity in veterinary laboratories, human laboratories, laboratories that do both, or all types as appropriate for the designated regions?

Answer:

The Applicant should account and budget for all costs related to sample collection, transport, testing, and analysis of samples collected as part of the PREDICT surveillance system.

33. Question:

Hello, I came across the RFA for the USAID Avian and Pandemic Influenza and Zoonotic Disease Program and had a question about the cost share portion. To my understanding, contributing to the total project costs is recommended. Is there a certain percentage range that would be ideal? Do contributions need to be in cash or are in-kind contributions also acceptable? Also, are applications that propose cost share considered more favorably during the selection process? Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Answer:

As stated in Section II - E COST SHARE, applicants under this RFA are encouraged to leverage their own non-U.S. Government resources to contribute to the total cost of the RESPOND Project. This is an encouragement and not a requirement for applications to this RFA. For purposes of this RFA any applicant's decision to include or not include cost share/in-kind contribution will not be used as an evaluation criterion.