Optimizing Momentum Toward Sustainable Epidemic Control (OpCon)  
HRSA-17-103  
Questions & Answers

Webinar Recording:  https://hrsa.connectsolutions.com/p10ihis2xmq/

1. Year 1: Are there start-up funds available in Year 1? If so, in approximately what amount? This is relevant to our projected staffing patterns, the start-up schedule, and the Year 1 budget.

   **Answer:** For year 1, up to $10,000,000 is expected to be available. Applicants may apply for a ceiling amount of up to $10,000,000 in year one and up to $20,000,000 in years 2 through 5 (includes both direct and indirect/facilities and administrative costs). There is no information on start-up funds at this time.

2. Funding Source: How does HRSA anticipate funding the award – through central funds or the COP process? If it is via the COP, would it begin with COP 2018 funds, or is it written into COP 2017?

   **Answer:** Beginning with FY2017 funds, the award will be a mix of headquarters operating plan (HOP) and country operating plan (COP) funds.

3. Country selection: The NOFO mentions coverage of several regions, including Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, the Caribbean, and Latin America. However, it does not specify criteria for selecting specific countries, and there are no points awarded for identifying any countries in advance. Are applicants required to identify countries, and if so, how many? If no countries are required, how would HRSA advise that we present the proposal budget?

   **Answer:** Applicants should address the needs of all PEPFAR-funded counties in general, and should focus on at least one to two countries in greater specificity. The budget should also include an estimate of costs each year for each consortium partner. The countries in which activities will take place will be determined through the formal PEPFAR country operating plan review process. HRSA’s HIV/AIDS Bureau will then facilitate the coordination/collaboration with country teams and the cooperative agreement recipient(s).

4. Is information for Attachment 9 (Global Health Federal Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and/or Contracts) required of the prime applicant only, or from the prime and from each consortium participant?

   **Answer:** It is required for the prime applicant and optional for any consortium partner/collaborating organization. Please note that this will count towards the page limit.
5. Is information for Attachment 10 (Past Performance References) required of the prime applicant only, or from the prime and from each consortium participant?

**Answer:** This requirement is optional for the prime applicant and each consortium partner/collaborating organization. Please note that this will count towards the page limit.

6. If Attachment 10 (Past Performance References) includes the prime and each consortium participant, should the number of Past Performance References be limited to a total of three for the full team, or is the expectation for up to three from each consortium participant?

**Answer:** Submit no more than three past performance references total for the full team (prime applicant and consortium partners).

7. In the Application and Submission Information for the Budget, page 19 of the NOFO states the following on Indirect Costs, and Multiple Allocation of Indirect Cost Rates:

“Indirect Costs: Indirect costs on grants awarded to foreign organizations and performed 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 (8) percent of MTDC exclusive of tuition and related fees, direct expenditures for equipment, and subawards and contracts under the grant in excess of $25,000.”

“Multiple allocation of indirect cost rates: For institutions of higher education and nonprofits that have indirect costs benefitting major programs disproportionately, indirect rates will vary. HRSA will honor the federally-negotiated indirect cost rate.”

a) If a foreign organization has a federally-negotiated indirect cost rate letter, will those rates be honored?

**Answer:** Foreign organizations may charge indirect costs at a fixed rate of 8 percent of modified total direct costs (MTDC) exclusive of tuition and related fees, direct expenditures for equipment, and sub-awards and contracts under the grant in excess of $25,000. See 45 CFR 75.414(c)(1)(ii).

b) Will the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement NICRA) statements and rates of all U.S. organizations be honored whether the Multiple or Simplified Allocation Method are being used?

**Answer:** HRSA will honor the federal negotiated indirect cost rate for U.S. organizations.

8. The NOFO (page 19) references the need to highlight activities directly linked to HIV in the Budget. Does that mean not all activities have to be directly linked to HIV?

**Answer:** Yes, all activities must be linked to HIV epidemic control.
9. Can HRSA kindly confirm the page limit of the project narrative?

**Answer:** The total page limit for the full application is 80 pages. This 80-page limit includes the abstract, project and budget narratives, and attachments. Standard application forms are NOT included in the page limit.

**Please Note:** The total size of all uploaded files may not exceed the equivalent of 80 pages when printed by HRSA. Applications that exceed the specified limits (that exceed the equivalent of 80 pages when printed by HRSA) will be deemed non-compliant. It is strongly recommended that applicants print their proposals before submitting to ensure the 80-page limit is not exceeded.

10. Are applicants allowed to propose work across countries (i.e., border areas with refugees or migrant workers)?

**Answer:** Yes, as long as the applicant proposes countries that PEPFAR currently supports and the proposed activities are part of the host countries’ national HIV epidemic control strategies.

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