

Questions and Answers for HRSA-14-089

1. Please describe the eligibility criteria for this program.

Eligible applicants include a State or a political subdivision of a State; a consortium of two (2) or more States or political subdivisions of States; a territory; a health facility or program operated by or pursuant to a contract with or grant from the Indian Health Service; or any other entity with appropriate expertise in newborn screening. Page 3 of the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) further explains that HRSA is interested in applicants that have significant familiarity and experience with newborn screening programs, quality assessment and improvement, public health, database development and management, and collaboration with public health and community programs, professional organizations, and State and Federal agencies, as well as other programs and organizations that collaborate to improve and provide newborn screening. Any applicant that can serve in a national capacity to coordinate services among the state newborn screening programs is encouraged to apply.

2. Can you clarify the date as to when data should be collected by or when should data collection begin?

There is no specific date. HRSA understands that some time is needed to create a new system. Please remember that reviewers will be looking at the workplan as well as looking at the feasibility of activities laid out in the workplan. If an applicant proposed planning activities for the first 3.5 years of the grant and the project period is only 4 years, then that may result in less points because planning activities for that long would not allow enough time to implement all the goals of the this program.

3. Please clarify the recipient's responsibility regarding "maintaining a national database for quality improvement and incorporating existing data on newborn screening and quality improvement into data collected as part of this project, as appropriate." Should the applicant include budget consideration for transitioning these data to any new or improved system developed?

Please see Page 3 of the FOA; one of the responsibilities of the recipient includes: "Incorporate existing data on newborn screening and quality improvement into data collected as part of this project, as appropriate."

It is expected that the recipient will incorporate existing newborn screening data as appropriate for the purpose of technical assistance and quality improvement

during the project period. To clarify, there are many current sources of data on newborn screening and quality improvement within the U.S. including but not limited to currently funded HHS projects, various state health departments, Title V programs, etc. It is HRSA's expectation that whenever appropriate, data from those sources would be incorporated and utilized for the technical assistance and quality improvement activities described in the grant application. Applicants should only propose data collection necessary for the purpose of technical assistance and quality improvement and should indicate how such data will be utilized for these purposes.

Regarding the budget, please see page 9 of the FOA (iii. Budget and Budget Justification Narrative) as well as detailed information in the HRSA SF-424 Application Guide. The HRSA SF-424 Application Guide states that the Total Project or Program Costs are the total allowable costs (inclusive of direct and indirect costs) incurred by the recipient to carry out a grant-supported project or activity. Total project or program costs include costs charged to the award and costs borne by the recipient to satisfy a matching or cost-sharing requirement. The budget narrative should specifically describe how each item will support the achievement of proposed objectives.

If an applicant believes it is necessary to budget funds for the transitioning of data to another system in order to support the goals and objectives of the FOA, then yes, the applicant should include this in the proposal.

- 4. Within the Data Rights section, there is a reference to ensuring that data collected is made publicly available, free of charge, for use by the public without restrictions. Does the public availability requirement mean that no password protected data can be collected? If not, then what would be the limitations and considerations?**

In reference to the data rights section on pages 4 and 16:

To ensure that the newborn screening data repository benefits both the newborn screening community and members of the public, the data collected under this cooperative agreement must be made publicly available, free of charge, for use by the public without restrictions. After award of the grant, if the recipient believes special consideration is needed for a specific situation then the recipient must notify the Project Officer and the request will be reviewed by HRSA officials on a case by case basis.

5. Will HRSA notify the reviewers of any past grantees' performance issues?

No, reviewers will not be notified of previous grantee performance. HRSA does not share past performance and information from prior grants with reviewers.

Key Rules for Reviewers

- Evaluate each application on its own merit.
- No outside information.
- No comparison of applications.

For more information about HRSA's review process, please see:

<http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/apply/review/index.html>