



Informational Call for Potential Applicants

Understanding and Promoting Resources and Opportunities for People with Autism and Fragile X Syndrome (FXS) and their Families Across the Lifespan **CDC-RFA-DD-26-0025**

Epidemiology Team
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities

May 27, 2026



Agenda

11:00 am-12:00 pm ET

- 01 Award and Eligibility Information
- 02 Approach
- 03 Submission Procedures
- 04 Review and Selection Process
- 05 Question and Answers



Award and Eligibility Information

Seema Gupta

NOFO Summary

- This NOFO aims to better understand the resources and opportunities that people with autism or fragile X syndrome (FXS) and their families need in areas including education, transition into young adulthood, and services and supports
- Goal is to reduce morbidity and mortality, as well as improve long-term outcomes including health and wellbeing
- CDC will fund three components under this NOFO
 - **Component A: Survey to Promote Resources and Opportunities for aUtistic Teens and young adults (SPROUT)**
 - Component B: Focus on Advancing Support and Transition with the Fragile X Online Registry With Accessible Research Database (FAST FORWARD)
 - Component C: Creating resources, support, and strengthening capacity for people with FXS

Award and Eligibility Information

- Type of Award: Cooperative Agreement
- Fiscal Year: 2026
- Total Period of Performance Length: 5 years (12-month budget periods)
- Number of Components: 3
- Approximate Number of Awards*
 - **Component A: Up to 7 (average amount per budget period: \$230K-\$650K)**
 - Component B: Up to 3 (average amount per budget period: \$333,333)
 - Component C: 1 (average amount per budget period: \$200K)
- *Applicants may apply for all three components if they have the capacity
- Eligible Applicants: Open competition



Component A: Survey to Promote Resources and Opportunities for autistic Teens and young adults (SPROUT)

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Autism Spectrum Disorder

- A neurodevelopmental disorder
- Traits generally appear in the first few years of life
- Associated with many co-occurring conditions
- Wide range of challenges, skills, and abilities



The Study to Explore Early Development (SEED)

- Launched in 2006 to better understand risk factors and how behaviors manifest in the first 5 years of life
- Multi-phase, multi-site study of young children with and without autism

Study years:

- SEED 1 = 2007-2011
- SEED 2 = 2012-2016
- SEED 3 = 2017-2020

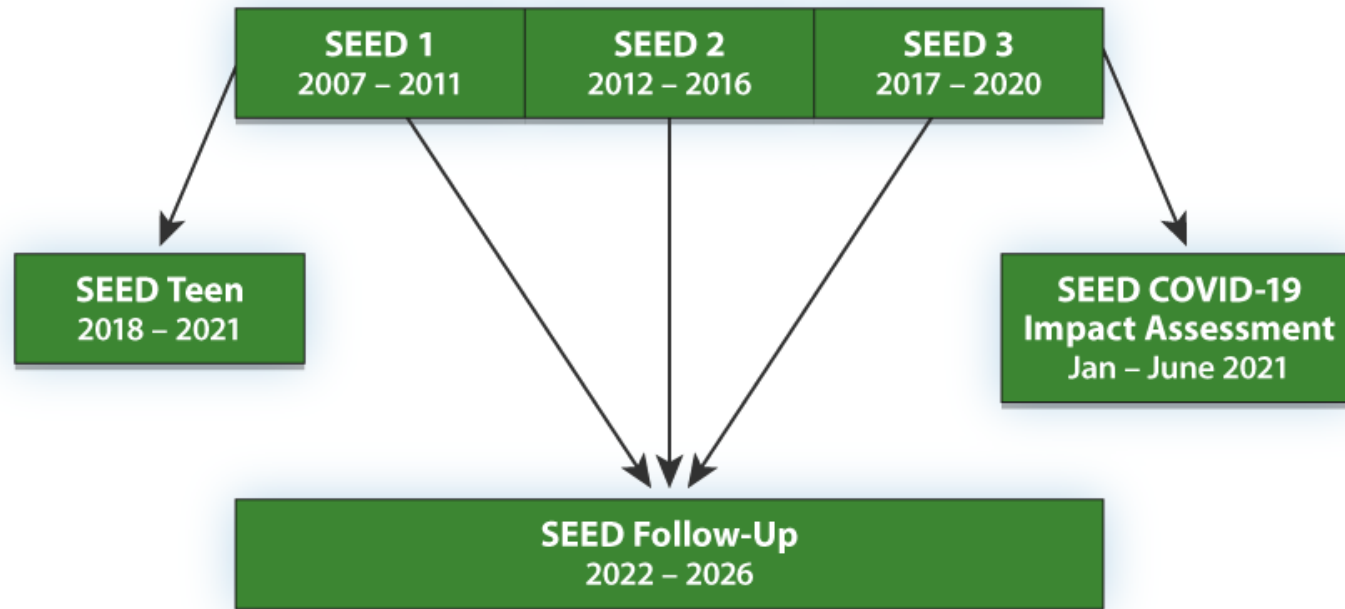
Sites:

- CO, GA, MD, NC (SEED 1-3)
- CA and PA (SEED 1-2)
- MO and WI (SEED 3)

- Children with autism, other developmental disabilities, and those from a population comparison group

SEED Teen and SEED Follow-Up Survey

Overview of Activities Study to Explore Early Development (SEED)



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Overview of SPROUT

- Additional follow-up of SEED 1-3 participants who will be 10-28 years of age when project is awarded
- Two waves of online caregiver and self-report surveys
 - Wave 1: Service and support needs, daily living skills, and the impact of co-occurring conditions on autistic people and their families
 - Wave 2: Educational, transitional, social, and/or vocational needs and experiences of autistic adolescents and young adults
- Information collected is intended to be unique
- Data will guide policies and practices to increase access to services and supports, and improve health and other outcomes of autistic people and their families.

SPROUT Requirements

- Applicant must document access to individual contact and eligibility information for participants in SEED phases 1, 2, and/or 3
- Therefore, applicants must either:
 - Be one of the original SEED entities that collected data from children ages 2-5 and their parents OR
 - Document collaborative agreements to work with one or more of the original entities
- Original entities
 - JFK Partners and University of Colorado School of Medicine, Anschutz Medical Campus (SEED 1-3)
 - Johns Hopkins University and Kennedy Krieger Institute (SEED 1-3)
 - Washington University (SEED 3)
 - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (SEED 1-3)
 - The Board of Regents at the University of Wisconsin System (SEED 3)
 - Kaiser Permanente Division of Research and the California Department of Health Services (SEED 1-2)
 - University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and The Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania (SEED 1-2)

SPROUT Strategies and Activities

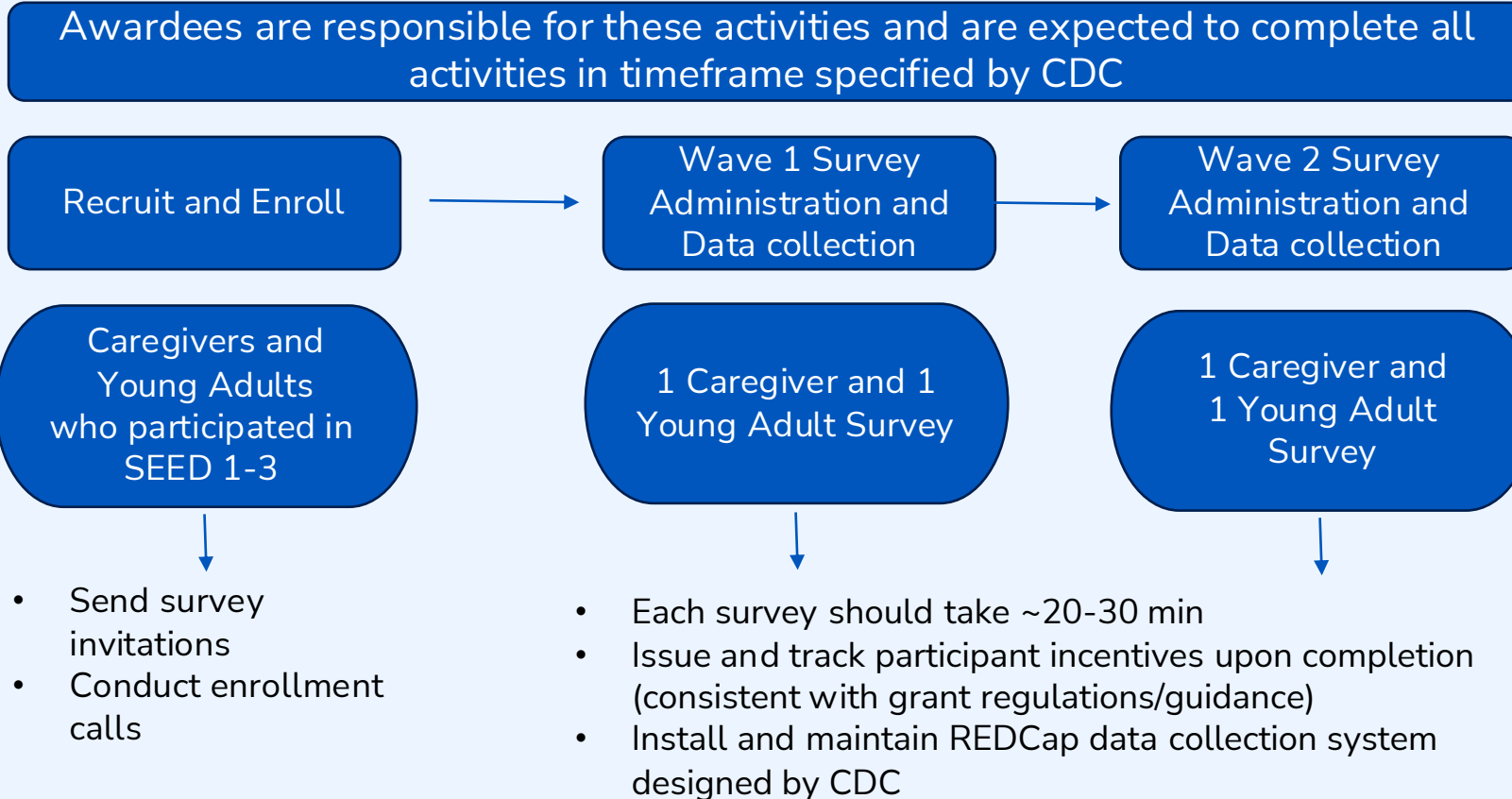
- **Strategy 1: Collect and manage timely, unique data on people who participated in SEED 1-3**
 - Activity 1: Recruit and enroll eligible SPROUT participants
 - Activity 2: Collect survey data; issue participant incentives upon completion of surveys
 - Activity 3: Manage collected data
 - Activity 4: Clean and share de-identified data

- **Strategy 2: Translate data into high quality public health products**
 - Activity 1: Collaborate on two CDC-led all-site data briefs
 - Activity 2: Develop two site-specific data briefs
 - Activity 3: Develop and disseminate widely two additional and timely public health products

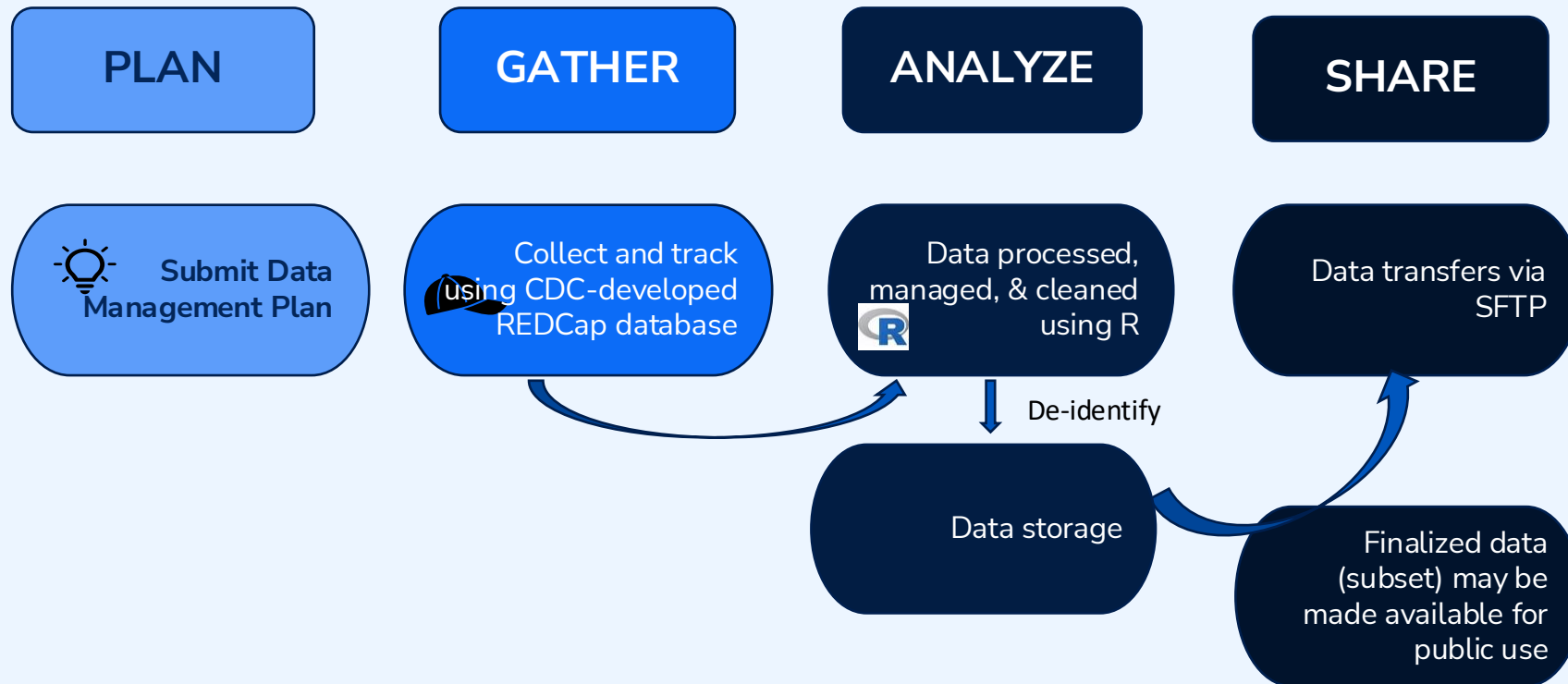
SPROUT Strategies and Activities (cont'd)

- **Strategy 3: Disseminate public health information**
 - Activity 1: Disseminate all-site and site-specific data briefs
 - Identify and work with community partners to help disseminate data briefs
 - Use through various methods for dissemination (health fairs, partner newsletters, provider clinics, public webinars, social media)

SPROUT Data Collection



SPROUT Data Management



Required Performance Measures for Strategy 1

Activity	Performance Measures	Reporting Timeline	
		Frequency	Due Date/Start Date
1. Recruit & Enroll Eligible SPROUT Participants	Report criteria used to determine eligibility and total number eligible for SPROUT	Only once	Year 1, Quarter 1
	Report steps taken to contact eligible SEED 1-3 participants	Only once	Year 1, Quarter 1
	Report number of eligible participants invited, contacted, & enrolled	Monthly	Year 1, Quarter 3
	Identify at least one site representative who will attend all-site calls	Monthly	Year 1, Quarter 3

Required Performance Measures for Strategy 1 (cont'd)

Activity	Performance Measures	Reporting Timeline	
		Frequency	Due Date/Start Date
2. Collect survey data	Report number of eligible SPROUT participants who completed survey →	Monthly	Year 1, Quarter 3
	Report challenges and barriers to collecting survey data and proposed actions to overcome →	Monthly	Year 1, Quarter 3
3. Manage data collected	Provide statements of completion of confidentiality training for local investigators →	Annually	Year 1, Quarter 2
	Ensure at least one site representative attends all SPROUT project coordination and data management calls →	Monthly	Year 1, Quarter 1
4. Clean and share data	Upload/transfer de-identified data files via sFTP to CDC →	Monthly	Year 1, Quarter 3
	Complete data cleaning procedures and submit final de-identified data files to CDC →	Twice	Year 3, Quarter 1 Year 5, Quarter 1

Required Performance Measures for Strategy 2

Activity	Performance Measures	Reporting Timeline	
		Frequency	Due Date/Start Date
1. Collaborate on two all-site data briefs	Ensure at least one site representative attends all SPROUT all-site calls	Monthly	Year 1, Quarter 1
2. Collaborate on two site-specific data briefs	Participate in site-specific calls with CDC team as needed	Monthly	Year 1, Quarter 1
3. Develop two additional public health products	Submit letters of intent (LOIs) for two other public health products that do not overlap with SPROUT data briefs	Twice	Years 1-5
	Submit final public health product within 18 months of LOI approval to CDC	Twice	Years 1-5

Required Performance Measures for Strategy 3

Activity	Performance Measures	Reporting Timeline	
		Frequency	Due Date/Start Date
1. Disseminate all-site and site-specific data briefs	Provide evidence of collaboration with at least two community partners to release data briefs	Once	Year 1, Quarter 4
	Report number and type (e.g., webinar, newsletter) of dissemination methods identified by site & community partners	Twice	Year 2, Quarter 1 Year 4, Quarter 1
	Report reach potential of each dissemination method (e.g., estimated audience size)	Twice	Year 2, Quarter 1 Year 4, Quarter 1
	Provide report with the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of dissemination events/activities conducted • Any barriers or challenges encountered with dissemination efforts • Reach metrics for each dissemination event/activity 	Twice	Year 3, Quarter 4 Year 5, Quarter 4
	Submit report detailing efforts/attempts to strengthen partnerships including number of partners reached and number of data briefs disseminated.	Twice	Year 3, Quarter 4 Year 5, Quarter 4



Submission Procedures

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Letter of Intent (LOI) – Optional

- Requested but optional
- Due Date: June 1, 2026
- Allows CDC staff to estimate the number of applications and plan for their review
- Send LOI via email to Seema Gupta at cvk9@cdc.gov with the following information:
 - The funding opportunity number and title
 - Your organization's name and address
 - A contact name, phone number, and email address
 - The component(s) for which you are planning to apply – A, B, C

Application Contents and Format

- Table of contents (no page limit)
- Project summary
- Project narrative
 - Page limit: 20
 - Content beyond the specified limits will not be reviewed
 - Text single-spaced, 12-point font (Calibri), 1-inch margins, number all pages
- Background and approach
- Evaluation and performance measurement plan
- Organizational capacity
- Budget narrative (not scored)
- Attachments

Budget Narrative

- Supports information in Standard Form 424-A
- Explain and justify costs in budget
- Include the following:
 - Salaries and wages
 - Fringe benefits
 - Consultant costs
 - Equipment
 - Supplies
 - Travel
 - Other categories
 - Contractual costs
 - Total direct costs (total of all items)
 - Total indirect costs

Component A Budget

- Salary and wages for staff, including a principal investigator, project coordinator, recruiters/interviewers, data management, outreach, and evaluation
- Contact tracing costs
- Number of eligible participants per SEED phase
- Recruitment support costs (e.g., community outreach, printing study materials, mailing invitation packets, photocopying, etc.)
- Participant incentives (\$30 gift card for each survey completed)
- Travel support: proposed budget to include funds for at least one person to attend an annual SEED network in-person meeting in Atlanta
- Equipment: laptops/encrypted thumb drives/software and related IT needs
- Facility costs (rent, electricity, etc.)



Review and Selection Process

Seema Gupta

Application Review

Initial Review

- Office of Grants Services initially reviews for eligibility and completeness
- Non-responsive applicants will not advance to the next phase of review

Scoring Process

- Panel reviews applications using criteria outlined in NOFO

Risk Review

- Review the risk that recipient will not manage federal funds prudently

Merit Review Scoring Criteria

- Background and Approach (45 points section total)
 - Background (5 points)
 - Strategies and Activities (20 points)
 - Outcomes (5 points)
 - Work Plan (15 points)
- Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan (20 points section total)
- Organizational Capacity (35 points section total)

Background and Approach

- Background (5 points)
 - Shows a clear problem your organization will address
- Strategies and Activities (20 points)
 - Achievable and consistent with the CDC logic model (10 points)
 - Demonstrate the ability and intent to adhere to standardized methods, including data collection, data transfer, making data publicly available in a manner consistent with CDC guidance, and making manuscripts publicly available immediately upon publication (10 points)
- Outcomes (5 points)
 - Consistent with the outcomes in the CDC logic model
- Work Plan (15 points)
 - Aligns with the strategies, activities, and performance measures in the program description and is consistent with the recommended content and format (10 points)
 - Proposed use of funds aligns with the work plan and is an efficient and effective way to carry out the strategies and activities and achieve the outcomes (5 points)

Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan

- Ability to collect the data needed for evaluation and performance measurement (5 points)
- Clear monitoring and evaluation procedures, and how your organization will incorporate evaluation and performance measurement into planning, implementing, and reporting project activities (5 points)
- How your organization will report and use performance measurement and evaluation fundings to demonstrate outcomes and for continuous program quality improvement (5 points)
- Data management plan (5 points)
 - Capacity to implement and manage appropriate software (e.g., REDCap, R software, Filezilla), access and confidentiality standards, and archival and long-term preservation plans, and data limitations
 - Ability to comply with CDC data privacy, confidentiality, and security guidelines, and ability to release a public use dataset

Organizational Capacity

- Staffing plan – roles and responsibilities, organization chart sufficient to achieve the project outcomes (10 points)
- Relevant experience among project staff and capacity to implement the strategies and activities and achieve project outcomes (10 points)
- Collaborations that support the applicant’s capacity or add value to the project (10 points)
- Experience or capacity to implement the evaluation plan (5 points)

Selection Process

- Applications will be funded in order by the rank that the review panel determines
- When making funding decisions, we consider merit review results
 - Key in making decisions but not the only factor
- CDC may fund applications out of merit review order
 - Ensure demographic and geographic representativeness
 - Ability to access participant contact information
- CDC may
 - Fund applications in whole or in part
 - Fund applications at a lower amount than requested
 - Approve but not fund one or more components which could be funded in the next fiscal year
- The number of awards is subject to available funds and agency and program priorities.

Award Notices

- If awarded, CDC will email a Notice of Award (NoA) to your authorized official
 - Only official award document
 - Amount of award, important dates, terms and conditions you need to follow
 - Work cannot begin until you receive the NoA
- We will notify you if your application is found not responsive or unsuccessful

Key Dates

- **Optional letter of intent due:** June 1, 2026
- **Applications due:** June 15, 2026, 11:59 Eastern Standard Time
- **Tentative date for awards to be issued:** August 31, 2026
- **Project start:** September 30, 2026

Agency Contacts

- **Programmatic Technical Assistance**
 - Seema Gupta, Project Officer
 - Email: cvk9@cdc.gov
- **Financial, Awards Management, or Budget Assistance**
 - Robyn Bryant, Grants Management Officer
 - Email: ppa4@cdc.gov
- **Submission Technical Assistance**
 - Grants.gov Contact Center
 - Phone: 1-800-518-4726



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Questions and Answers

- Submit questions in the chat box.
- Deadline to submit questions (via SPROUT@cdc.gov): June 9, 2026
- All questions and answers, as well as the recording of this call will be posted on the NOFO webpage:
- <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/nofo-autism-fxs/index.html>

Thank you.

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 <https://www.cdc.gov/>
Follow us on social @CDCgov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

