

# CDC-RFA-TO23-0001: Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services in Indian Country

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Informational Conference Call

April 11 & 13, 2023 - **[POST CALLS UPDATE]**

# Agenda

- General Information
- Eligibility and Responsiveness Requirements
- Program Overview
- Application Requirements
- Submission Process
- Review and Selection Process
- Key Dates and Resources
- Question and Answer Session

# General Information

CDC-RFA-TO-23-0001 NOFO

# Key Terms and Acronyms

- **CIO:** CDC's Centers, Institute, and Offices
- **NOA:** Notice of award
- **NOFO:** Notice of funding opportunity
- **Period of Performance:** Time during which a recipient may expend funding to complete approved work under the federal award
- **Budget Period or Budget Year:** Duration of each individual funding period within the period of performance
- **Public Health Infrastructure:** Systems, competencies, relationships, and resources that enable public health agencies to perform their core functions and essential services in every community

# Letter of Intent (LOI)

- Preliminary, non-binding indication of an entity's intent to submit an application
- CDC uses LOIs to plan for the submission and review of applications
- For this NOFO, an LOI
  - Is requested but not required,
  - Should be written on official letterhead, and
  - Include the following information:
    1. Entity Type (List only one)
    2. HHS Region (List all that apply)
    3. IHS Area (List all that apply)

## Letter of Intent (LOI), continued

4. **Up to two** of the Strategies listed on the logic model (see Section A.2a: Approach)
  5. **At least one** of the bold Outcomes listed on the logic model
- LOI should be submitted via email attachment by Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm ET
    - To: Alleen Weathers
    - Email address: [CSTLTSTribalCoAg@cdc.gov](mailto:CSTLTSTribalCoAg@cdc.gov)

# Eligibility and Responsiveness Requirements

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# Eligibility

- Competition is limited to the following:
  - Federally recognized American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribes
    - Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)
    - AI/AN tribal governments (federally recognized)
  - Regional AI/AN tribally designated organizations



# Responsiveness

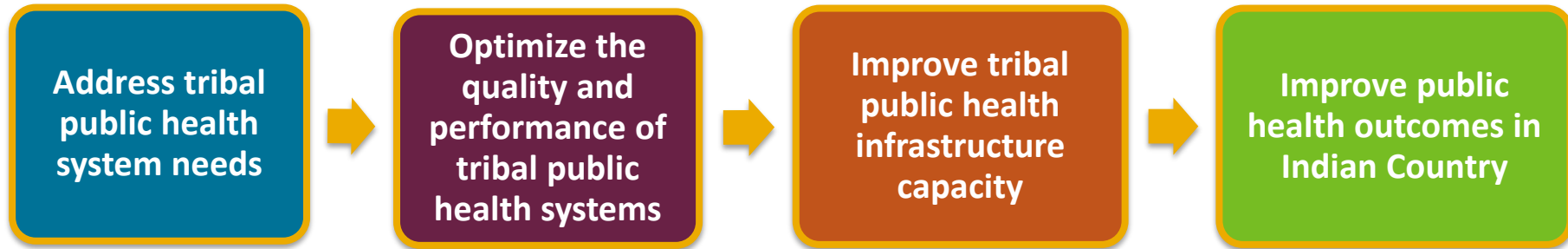
- Additional eligibility requirements
  - Federally recognized AI/AN Tribes **must** provide letter from currently elected tribal leader or a tribal resolution to demonstrate support from tribal leadership
  - Regional AI/AN tribally designated organizations **must** provide tribal resolutions or letters of support from currently elected tribal leaders from at least half of tribes within organization's service area
- Applications that do not meet “additional eligibility requirements” will be considered non-responsive.

# Program Overview

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# Purpose

- To strengthen the quality, performance, and infrastructure of tribal public health systems



# Design



# Approach: Logic Model

Strategies	Short-term Outcomes	Intermediate Outcomes	Long-term Outcomes
<p><b>Strategy 1: Foundational Public Health Capabilities</b> implemented to strengthen the ability to conduct assessments/surveillance; prepare for and respond to public health emergencies; develop and support policies, communications, community partnership, organizational competencies, and accountability and performance management.</p>	<p><b>Improved capacity to develop public health programs and services to address prioritized public health activities in AI/AN communities.</b></p>	<p>Improved public health organizational and systems capacity in Indian Country.</p>	<p>Improved public health outcomes and reduced health inequities.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 2: Data Modernization</b> activities to develop and deploy scalable, adaptable, and sustainable technologies, policies, and methods to implement data and analytical capabilities to support the <a href="#">Essential Public Health Services</a>.</p>	<p><b>Improved capacity to implement public health programs and services to address prioritized public health activities in AI/AN communities.</b></p>	<p>Increased availability of/access to public health programs, services, and resources that address health disparities and/or social determinants of health in AI/AN communities.</p>	
<p><b>Strategy 3: Public Health Programs and Services</b> implemented to strengthen the ability to comprehensively meet public health needs.</p>	<p><b>Improved capacity to evaluate public health programs and services to address prioritized public health activities in AI/AN communities.</b></p>		
<p><b>Strategy 4: Workforce</b> activities to develop and maintain a diverse public health workforce with cross-cutting skills and competencies.</p>			

# Approach: Strategies and Activities

- Applicants must select **no more than two** of the following strategies to address within their application:
  1. Foundational Public Health Capabilities
  2. Data Modernization
  3. Public Health Programs and Services
  4. Workforce
- CDC has provided examples of activities for each strategy; these activities are not required

## Approach: Outcomes

- Applicants must select **at least one** of the following outcomes to address within their application:

1. Improved **capacity to develop** public health programs and services to address prioritized public health activities in AI/AN communities.
2. Improved **capacity to implement** public health programs and services to address prioritized public health activities in AI/AN communities.
3. Improved **capacity to evaluate** public health programs and services to address prioritized public health activities in AI/AN communities.

- Recipients are expected to achieve selected program outcome(s) and report on additional outcomes accomplished

# Two-Part Funding Strategy

**Period of Performance: 5 years (August 31, 2023–August 30, 2028)**

## **Funding Strategy 1 – Base Funding**

- **Year 1:** Responsive applications are objectively reviewed; initial funding awarded
- **Years 2-5:** Continuation applications for projects awarded in previous budget year(s)
- **12-month budget period**

## **Funding Strategy 2 – CIO Project Plans**

- **Years 1-4:** CDC publishes supplemental NOFOs
- **Years 1-4:** Supplement applications are limited to **recipients of Funding Strategy 1** awards
- **Up to 12-month budget period** (*dependent on when notices of award are issued*)



# Evaluation and Performance Measurement Strategy

- CDC expectations
  - Provide technical assistance to understand and implement the cooperative agreement requirements and meet program outcomes
  - Use information collected in recipient progress reports (frequency to be determined) and annual performance reports to document project status
- Recipient expectations
  - Track the implementation of strategies and activities
  - Determine the progress made in achieving outcomes
  - Submit a detailed Evaluation and Performance Measurement plan, if applicable
  - State a commitment to provide a Data Management Plan (DMP) post award if specific data generation and collection activities are planned

# Evaluation and Performance Measurement

- The NOFO provides example performance measures to monitor progress towards reaching outcomes
  - **Process measures** track the implementation of strategies and activities
  - **Outcome measures** determine progress in achieving outcomes
- Measures should clearly align with the strategy(ies) and outcome(s), as defined in the NOFO and represented in the logic model

# Application Requirements

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# Documentation Requirements

- Submit the following information:
  - Table of Contents for Entire Submission
  - Project Abstract
  - Project Narrative
    - Background
    - Approach
    - Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan
    - Organizational Capacity of Applicant to Implement the Approach
  - Work Plan
  - Budget Narrative

# Documentation Requirements, continued

- Submit the following information:
  - Tribal Support documentation – see “Section 2c.2: Additional Information on Eligibility” in the NOFO
  - Organizational chart(s)
  - Resumes/CVs
  - Position descriptions
  - Letters of support
  - Indirect cost rate, if applicable
  - Bona Fide Agent status documentation, if applicable
  - Report on programmatic, budgetary, and commitment overlap

# Project Abstract

- Brief summary of proposed project including the purpose and outcomes
- Summary must not include any proprietary or confidential information
- Applicants must enter the summary in the “Project Abstract Summary” text box of the application

# Project Narrative

- Background
- Approach
  - See “Section A.2a: Approach” of the NOFO
  - Applicants **must** identify the following information:
    - **Up to two** of the Strategies found on the Logic Model
    - **At least one** of the bold Outcomes found on the Logic Model
- Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan
  - See “Section A.2b: Evaluation and Performance Measurement” of the NOFO
  - Applicants **must** provide a statement of commitment to provide a DMP post award when specific data generation and collection activities are defined

# Organizational Capacity of Applicant to Implement the Approach

- Included within the Project Narrative
- Demonstrates ability to execute the program strategies, implement activities, and achieve expected outcomes by describing the following:
  - General capacity
  - Current and recent programs
  - Procurement activities
  - Staffing and partnerships
  - Relationship with intended population (i.e., target population)



# Organizational Capacity of Applicant to Implement the Approach, continued

- See “Section A.2c: Organizational Capacity of Recipients to Implement the Approach”
- Applicants **must** identify the following:
  - Entity Type (**List only one**)
    - Federally recognized AI/AN Tribe
    - Regionally tribally designated organization
  - HHS Region (**List all that apply**)
  - IHS Area (**List all that apply**)

# Work Plan

- High-level plan for the 5-year period of performance and a detailed plan for the first budget year
- Plan based on the “Average One Year Award Amount” (i.e., \$200,000)
- Five-year Overview (Narrative) addresses progress throughout period of performance and identifies the following:
  - Up to two Strategies found on the Logic Model
  - At least one of the bold Outcomes found on the Logic Model

# Work Plan, continued

- **One-Year Detailed Work Plan (table)**
  - Descriptive, detailed plan with specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely (S.M.A.R.T) objectives to support achievement of the chosen outcome(s)
  - Applicants are required to address **all bold** elements listed in the sample work plan

<u>Period of Performance Outcome:</u> <i>[from Outcomes section and/or logic model]</i>  <i>Example 1: Improved capacity to implement public health programs and services to address prioritized public health activities in AI/AN communities.</i>		<u>Outcome Measure:</u> <i>[from Evaluation and Performance Measurement section]</i>  <i>Example 1: Increase in the number of quality improvement efforts undertaken by trained staff.</i>	
<u>Strategies and Activities</u>	<u>Process Measure</u> <i>[from Evaluation and Performance Measurement section]</i>	<u>Responsible Position/Party</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>
1) <i>Example: Foundational Public Health Capabilities - Accountability/Performance Management: Build and foster an organization-wide culture of quality improvement using nationally recognized frameworks and quality improvement tools and methods.</i>	<i>Percent of staff training in quality improvement methodology and tools.</i>	<i>Health Director</i>	<i>3/1/2026</i>
2)			

# Budget Narrative

- Submit an itemized budget that is reasonable and consistent with the Project Narrative, including the following:
    - Salaries and wages
    - Fringe benefits
    - Consultant costs
    - Equipment
    - Supplies
    - Travel
    - Contractual costs
    - Other direct costs
    - Total direct costs
    - Total Indirect costs\*
- \*If applicable, submit an active indirect cost rate agreement

# Submission Process

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# Prior to Application Submission

- An entity must be registered at the three following locations before submitting an application for funding at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov):
  1. System for Award Management (SAM)
    - Contact: [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov)
    - Can require up to 14 business days to process
    - Must be renewed annually
  2. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) formerly the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)
    - Generated as part of the SAM.gov registration

# Prior to Application Submission, continued

## 3. Grants.gov

- Contact: [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
- Requires UEI, SAM account, and Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- Takes up to eight weeks to be fully registered and approved in system

## Other Requirements

- Submit all acceptable attachments in a PDF file format
- Submit **no more than one** application
  - If more than one application is submitted, the latest application submitted will be reviewed.
  - All applications after that will be deemed non-responsive.
- Submit application to [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) by **Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm ET**



# Review and Selection Process

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# Review and Selection Process

- Applicants will be reviewed in three phases:
  - Phase I – Eligibility and responsiveness
  - Phase II – Objective review of responsive applications
  - Phase III – CDC funding priority and preferences
- Phase I Review
  - See Section 2C: Eligibility Information of the NOFO

## Phase II Review Scoring Criteria

- A review panel will evaluate complete, eligible applications using the criteria below:
  - Approach (40 points): Develops a completed and comprehensive plan for the budget period that describes:
    - How the applicant will adequately achieved the selected Strategies and Outcomes
    - How the plan will focus on strengthening public health systems and services needs of the intended population (i.e., target population)
  - Evaluation and Performance Measurement (30 points)

## Phase II Review Scoring Criteria, continued

- Applicant's Organizational Capacity to Implement the Approach (30 points)
- Budget (reviewed, but not scored): Extent to which proposed budget is allowable, reasonable, and consistent with the stated objectives and activities

# Phase III Review: CDC Funding Preferences

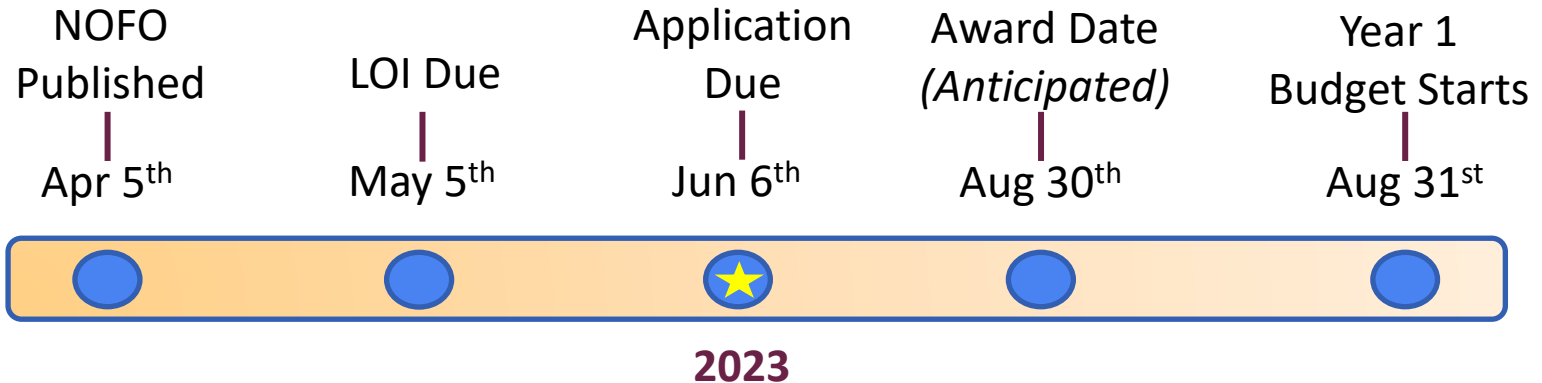
- CDC may fund out-of-rank order
- Preference will be given to applications that achieve geographic diversity

# Key Dates and Resources

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# Key Dates

- Letter of Intent (LOI): May 5<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm ET via [CSTLTSTribalCoAg@cdc.gov](mailto:CSTLTSTribalCoAg@cdc.gov)
- Application Deadline: June 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm ET via [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
- Anticipated Award Announcements
  - Funding Strategy 1: August 30, 2023
  - Funding Strategy 2: September/October 2023



# Resources

- NOFO webpage: <https://www.cdc.gov/tribal/cooperative-agreements/indian-country-services/nofo.html>
- NOFO mailbox: [CSTLTSTribalCoAg@cdc.gov](mailto:CSTLTSTribalCoAg@cdc.gov)
- HHS Regions:  
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/iea/regional-offices/index.html>
- Grants.gov support:
  - Check for frequently asked questions at [https://gditshared.servicenowservices.com/hhs\\_grants](https://gditshared.servicenowservices.com/hhs_grants)
  - Call 1-800-518-4726
  - Email [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)



# Question and Answer Session

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