



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Published: June 2, 2022

Funding Amount: Up to \$150,000 for a Contractor

Project Period: June 27, 2021- July 31, 2022*

**Project Period will be extended for the upcoming fiscal year*

Eligibility: This opportunity is available to members of the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI), Public Health Training Centers, and consultants/contractors.

Award Mechanism: NNPHI anticipates making a sub-award for Project Firstline support founder CFDA 93.421Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Cooperative Agreement 6 NU38OT000303-02-04.

Timeline:

Initial Webinar	June 10, 2022 at 11:00 AM ET
Deadline to Submit Questions	June 15, 2022 at 5:00 PM ET
Proposal Submission Deadline	June 17, 2022 at 11:59 PM ET
Review Period	June 20-24, 2022
Notice of Selection status	June 25, 2022 @ 5:00 PM ET
Project Period	June 27, 2022- July 31, 2022* <i>*Project Period will be extended for the upcoming fiscal year</i>

Objective

NNPHI seeks a partner to conduct a feasibility study to understand the potential to implement infection prevention and control (IPC), healthcare-associated infection (HAI), and antibiotic resistance into a learning pathway and certificate for graduate students in allied health, public health, and healthcare-associated fields (AI). Under Project Firstline, we are seeking a partner experienced in planning and conducting feasibility studies and who is familiar with the intersection of public health and healthcare as it

relates to IPC, HAI, and AI. The feasibility study should assess capacities within the MPH programs currently available and make recommendations on strategies to implement a learning pathway or certificate program for undergraduate and graduate students in public health and other healthcare-associated fields.

Background

Mobilizing more than 40 public health institutes throughout 32 states along with ten university-based regional training centers and 40 training affiliates, the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) support national public health system initiatives and strengthens public health institutes to promote multisector activities resulting in measurable improvements of public health structures, systems, and outcomes. To learn more about NNPHI, visit www.nnphi.org.

Project Firstline is a CDC-led, multi-year national training collaborative focused on healthcare infection prevention and control (IPC) related to coronavirus and other infectious agents that aims to train all frontline healthcare personnel in the United States. The project will build an infection control foundation of knowledge and culture of expertise in the healthcare and the public health communities that will help protect patients, healthcare workers, and the public. Nine national-level partners, including NNPHI, will help disseminate and deliver CDC- developed IPC training.

The project will build an infection control foundation of knowledge and culture of expertise in the healthcare and the public health communities that will help protect patients, healthcare workers, and the public. Nine national-level partners, including NNPHI, will help disseminate and deliver CDC-developed IC training and develop original content. This project will also involve state, local, and territorial health departments that receive Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases Cooperative Agreement (ELC) funding.

Scope of Work (SOW)

This RFP aims to establish agreements with an organization (herein referred to as "contractors") to provide support to Project Firstline with the first activity listed above. The general scope of work is divided into two phases. The contractor will be responsible for completing each phase and reporting back throughout the process.

Phase 1: Research and Formative Development

1. Work with NNPHI to determine/confirm the cross-section of MPH and similar graduate programs to review in the feasibility study.
2. Document and identify established IPC academia curriculums and training available at the graduate level.
3. Review of the existing programs within MPH programs, including interviews with faculty, students, and curriculum designers through an equitable lens including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).
4. Make recommendations to NNPHI on training models, academic curriculum, and platforms and pathways upon graduation for implementation of IPC at the graduate level.

Deliverables:

- a. Examine trends and provide an overview of IPC prevalence and demographics of students enrolled in these programs
- b. Provide trend analysis of potential shifts in the workforce concerning IPC for academic curriculums and training opportunities for students.

Phase 2 Recommendations and Communication for Next Steps

1. Examine student demographics and interests to determine an understanding of future trends in the public health workforce
2. Evaluate the viability of offering and expanding the IPC training and courses within the MPH and similar graduate programs
3. Provide next steps and recommendations for graduate programs to offer or expand IPC programs

Deliverables

- a. Make recommendations on faculty leads and potential partner institutions to engage in the study
- b. Snapshot of MPH graduate job trends and job aid
- c. Provide data visualization tools on findings
- d. Communicate findings with NNPHI, CEPH, and MPH accrediting bodies, and public health entities through topline report of findings, data visualizations, or poster sessions
- e. Make recommendations to NNPHI for Project Firstline's potential reach into MPH programs

Funding

Funds may be used for salaries and benefits for staff engaged in the project, meetings and meeting supplies, pre-approved project-related travel, research and database software, data collection and analysis, supplies, communications, marketing, and graphic design. Funds are not intended to supplant state or federal funding. Funds may not be used for: lobbying activities; ongoing general operating expenses or existing deficits; items for which third-party reimbursement is available; endowments; meeting meals; or capital costs, including construction or renovation.

Contractor Selection Criteria

The selected contractor conducting the scan must have knowledge of public health academic programs & curriculums, an understanding of infection prevention and control best practices, and be familiar with Project Firstline, a CDC-led infection control initiative. This information will serve as the basis for future pieces of training, feasibilities, studies, scans, and certification associated with NNPHI's Project Firstline work with graduate and undergraduate students.

NNPHI will make contractor selection based on qualifications by the provisions of this RFP. The following criteria will guide NNPHI in reviewing and scoring applicants and determine the choice of a contractor(s) for this project:

1. Demonstrated experience in conducting research and studies related to a university program and academic areas
2. Demonstrated knowledge of infection control measures, vaccination safety, infectious diseases, outbreak surveillance, epidemiology, and contact tracing (staff member or SME consultant, previous pieces of training/content)
3. Demonstrated capacity to accomplish the SOW.
4. A reasonable and clear budget following the guidelines provided inclusive of a timeline for the projected project period.
5. Demonstrated capacity to manage a federal sub-award in a fiscally compliant manner.
6. Completeness and quality of the proposal.

How to Apply

NNPHI is utilizing a Smartsheet Online System for the proposal submission process. Submit your notice of intent to apply, proposal, and all additional documents through the links below. If you have any technical difficulties, please moldson@nnphi.org.

Submit your proposal and required attachments by **11:59 PM ET on Friday, June 17, 2022**. Click [“Here”](#) to submit your proposal via the NNPHI Smartsheet system.

Questions

Submit questions about this funding opportunity [“Here”](#) by **5:00 PM ET on Wednesday, June 15, 2022**. NNPHI will respond to inquiries within 24 hours. Please check back frequently to review the latest questions/answers.

Informational Session

Join us for one or both informational sessions and on the series of RFPs released for NNPHI's work with Project Firstline's MPH Feasibility Study on **Friday, June 10, 2022**, at 11:00 AM EST. Please register [“Here”](#) by the Thursday before the information session (Thursday, June 9) at 5:00 PM EST.

Proposal

Please respond to the following questions, do not exceed ten pages, single-spaced, Arial or Times New Roman 12-point font, with 1-inch margins. It is helpful to reviewers if you respond to the questions in the order presented below.

1. Introduce yourself, your organization, and your interest in the project.
2. Explain why you are particularly well-suited to complete the SOW.
3. Describe how your organization's experience and expertise apply to the SOW.
4. Describe the background and experience of the staff who would be assigned to the project and any partners that will be engaged in the work.
5. Describe at least one example of similar work that speaks to your capacity to perform the SOW, including:
 - Key staff and partners
 - Approach and methodologies used and timeframe in which the work was completed

- Milestones
 - Deliverables
 - Outcomes
 - Include links to previous work
6. Describe your approach to the bullet points listed in the SOW section above address all issues from Phases 1-3.
 7. Please describe previous experience with a project supported by federal funding (either as a direct recipient or as a sub-recipient).

Required Additional Information

1. Cover Letter
2. Budget spreadsheet and detailed narrative that aligns with the SOW
 - a. [CDC Budget Guidelines](#)
3. Resume or CV of for all proposed personnel
4. Work Sample: Sample of work or a similar product (attachments and links)

Notice to Applicants

Please be advised that NNPHI reserves the right to modify the terms of the RFP with reasonable notification to all interested parties. This RFP and any related discussions or evaluations by anyone create no rights or obligations whatsoever. NNPHI may cancel or delay this solicitation at any time at its discretion. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, the contract executed by NNPHI and the selected applicant, if any, will be the exclusive statement of rights and obligations extending from this solicitation. Applicants are further advised that all information submitted in response to this solicitation shall remain in the public domain.

This project is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$3,500,000 with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.