

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Published: August 29th, 2022

Funding Amount: Up to \$350,000 for one (1) contractor

Project Period: September 26th, 2022- March 31st, 2023

Eligibility: This opportunity is available to members of the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI), Public Health Training Centers, academic institutions/universities, 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 Q & A	September 12 th , 2022 at 2:00 PM ET
Deadline to Submit Questions	September 12 th , 2022 at 5:00 PM ET
Proposal Submission Deadline	September 16th, 2022 at 11:59 PM ET
Review Period	September 19 th – 22 nd , 2022
Notice of Selection status	September 23rd, 2022
Project Period	September 26 th , 2022 – March 31 st , 2023

Objective

In this Request for Proposals (RFP), NNPHI seeks a partner to conduct a feasibility study to determine the potential for implementing an infection prevention and control (IPC), healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), and antibiotic resistance (AR) curricula for public health students at an academic institution.

Based on the findings, recommendations, and strategies identified via the feasibility study, the partner will also develop an educational & training curricula that can be used in an academic setting to educate students on IPC/HAI/AR topic areas.

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) supports 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 builds 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. Multiple national-level partners, including NNPHI, help disseminate and deliver CDC-developed IPC training.

Scope of Work

This RFP aims to establish an agreement with an organization (herein referred to as "contractor") to provide support to Project Firstline with the aforementioned objectives and activities. The contractor will work in consultation with NNPHI and will be responsible for completing each phase of the SOW as outlined in the RFP. Bi-weekly calls and monthly progress reports will be required throughout the project period.

The general scope of work is divided into two (2) phases:

Phase 1: Research & Formative Development

1. Work in consultation with NNPHI to determine a list of graduate level MPH programs with IPC/HAI/AR content in the feasibility study.
2. Develop a methodology to identify and analyze established or existing IPC/HAI/AR related academic curriculums, certifications, and trainings available at the graduate level.
3. Perform a qualitative and quantitative review of existing IPC/HAI/AR curriculum within existing MPH programs, including interviews with curriculum designers, faculty, staff, and students. Reviews should be conducted through an equitable lens and include Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), as well as other institutions serving marginalized groups.
4. Provide recommendations and strategies to NNPHI on academic curriculum, learning pathways, and training models related to IPC/HAI/AR topics that should be included in a potential IPC graduate-level experience to expand IPC/HAI/AR programs at the graduate level.
5. Examine student demographics and interests regarding future trends in the public health workforce, specifically, regarding IPC/HAI/AR topics.
6. Examine the current scope of MPH graduate job trends, specifically regarding IPC/HAI/AR related jobs.

Deliverables:

- a. Feasibility study report that includes the following:
 - i. An overview of IPC/HAI/AR academic curriculums, certifications, and trainings available at the Master of Public Health (MPH) level,
 - ii. A qualitative and quantitative review of existing IPC/HAI/AR curriculum within existing MPH or similar programs,
 - iii. Trend Analysis Component: MPH Graduate job trends, specifically including IPC/HAI/AR related jobs or relevant positions, and

Phase 2: Development of IPC/HAI/AR Education and Training

1. In consultation with NNPHI, the contractor will identify the best way to incorporate IPC/HAI/AR topics into a public health education and training as identified via the feasibility study and by CDC Project Firstline.

Deliverables:

- a. Explore the implementation of an IPC/HAI/AR public health focused curricula.
 - i. Report with an outline of a pilot program to incorporate public health IPC training into academic MPH program.
 - i. Any curricula should include specific objectives and competencies should be explicitly stated.
 - ii. A facilitator guide and accompanying tools and resources for the curricula, including but not limited to: job-aids, one-pagers on IPC/HAI/AR concepts and topics, trainings, and skill development, etc.
 - ii. Report with recommendations for incorporation of IPC education and training into existing public health undergrad programs & for the incorporation of IPC education and training into existing professional accreditation programs.

(** The deliverables above will be considered complete if NNPHI receives the following: One (1) Feasibility Study Report, One (1) Curricula Report and One (1) Recommendations Report. **)

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 for this RFP must have demonstrated knowledge of the following:

- Public health academic programs, certificates, and curriculums;
- Experience conducting feasibility studies;
- Understanding of infection prevention and control, healthcare-associated infections, and antibiotic resistant best practices;
- Experience developing academic course tracks or certificate programs.

This information will serve as the basis for future pieces of training, pilots, studies, scans, and/or certifications associated with NNPHI's Project Firstline work with graduate-level programs and 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 feasibility studies as it relates to a university academic area or program;
2. Familiarity with and who is familiar with the intersection of public health and healthcare as it related to IPC, HAI, and ARs is preferred;
3. Demonstrated knowledge of infection prevention and control measures, healthcare-associated infections, antibiotic resistance, outbreak surveillance, epidemiology, and other relevant knowledge;
4. Demonstrated capacity to accomplish the SOW in a timely manner & a reasonable and clear budget that includes a timeline for the project period;
5. Demonstrated capacity to manage a federal sub-award in a fiscally compliant manner; and
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 email Ajay Persaud – apersaud@nnphi.org.

Submit your proposal and required attachments by **11:59 PM ET on Friday, September 16th, 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 Monday, September 12th, 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 **Monday, September 12th, 2022**, at 2:00 p.m. ET. Please register "[here](#)".

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, addressing all issues from Phases 1 & 2 with a proposed timeline for completion within the project period.
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)

(** Note – Any proposals that are missing any of “required additional information” items will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed by NNPHI **)

Notice to Applicants

NNPHI views the application process as a learning opportunity. Information from the applications will be shared in the summary format with our funding agency and NNPHI members to support learning and capacity building for the public health workforce.

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.

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