

Innovating for HIV Impact: The South African HIV Innovations Accelerator

Responses to Submitted Questions <i>Updated: August 27, 2018</i>			
Question No.	Date Submitted	Question Submitted	Response
1	8 August 2018	<p>A. Is there further information available on the types of interventions that would be considered for funding? The website appears to only be a link to an application portal.</p> <p>B. It appears as if existing PEPFAR-supported partners are not eligible to apply, please would you confirm this.</p> <p>C. If existing PEPFAR partners are not able to apply directly, are they eligible to apply as part of a consortium?</p>	<p>A. All information needed for this opportunity is available through links on the application website (https://sa-hiv-innovations.smapply.io/). Please see in particular the link to the full funding announcement <i>here</i>. https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=308011</p> <p>B, C. Eligibility criteria are also posted on the application website as part of the full funding announcement <i>here</i>. https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=308011 “Current PEPFAR primary (directly funded) partners are not eligible to apply, although they can be part of a consortium led by another entity.”</p>
2	10 August 2018	<p>Please provide the following:</p> <p>A. List of Items, Schedule of Requirements, Scope of Work, Terms of Reference, Bill of Materials required.</p> <p>B. Soft Copy of the Tender Document through email.</p> <p>C. Names of countries that will be eligible to participate in this tender.</p> <p>D. Information about the Tendering Procedure and Guidelines</p> <p>E. Estimated Budget for this Purchase</p> <p>F. Any Extension of Bidding Deadline?</p> <p>G. Any Addendum or Pre Bid meeting Minutes?</p>	<p>A-E. Please see the link to the full funding announcement posted on the application website <i>here</i>. https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=308011</p> <p>F. No extension of the application deadline is planned at this time.</p> <p>G. All addenda and additional information will be posted on the application website (https://sa-hiv-innovations.smapply.io/) and on grants.gov (https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=305999) and fedbizopps.gov (https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=fbf6f79d3ebac8172cf19632d7ebb6cf&tab=core&cvview=0).</p>

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3	10 August, 2018	The eligibility restriction on p.4 says “Current PEPFAR primary (directly funded) partners are not eligible to apply, although they can be part of a consortium led by another entity.” Does this mean PEPFAR partners in South Africa or any PEPFAR partners anywhere?	The eligibility restriction for current PEPFAR primary (directly funded) partners includes all entities directly receiving PEPFAR funds – through a country-funded or centrally funded mechanism.
4	10 August, 2018	Can you please clarify if this challenge is subject to the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA) rules – i.e. will winners be required to sign the Mexico City terms around not providing or suggesting abortions for family planning?	In general, PLGHA applies to all assistance awards providing global health assistance. The final determination as to what is and is not included in an award rests with the Contracting Officer. See also the Standard Clauses and Provisions of the Global Health Broad Agency Announcement for Research & Development (2018) to which the South African HIV Innovations Accelerator Addendum is attached, which states: “ <i>The standard clauses or provisions for awards are generally prescribed by law and regulation and will vary considerably by award type. Information regarding clauses and provisions will be offered to the proposer when the award type is identified.</i> ” https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?opId=308011)
5	14 August, 2018	Would it be possible to get the terms and conditions for the grants under the Innovating for HIV Impact: The South African HIV Innovations Accelerator? We need to evaluate if the terms would be agreeable in order to decide if we can bid for it.	As noted in the response to Question 4 above, the final determination as to the terms and conditions of an award rests with the Contracting Officer. See also the Standard Clauses and Provisions of the Global Health Broad Agency Announcement for Research & Development (2018) to which the South African HIV Innovations Accelerator Addendum is attached, which states: “ <i>The standard clauses or provisions for awards are generally prescribed by law and regulation and will vary considerably by award type. Information regarding clauses and provisions will be offered to the proposer</i>

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			<i>when the award type is identified.”</i> (https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=308011)
6	15 August, 2018	Although this funding opportunity is directed at solutions that “ <i>address a clearly articulated gap related to initiating and maintaining an additional 2 million people on ART in South Africa</i> ”, the call further notes that “ <i>solutions to identified gaps that fall outside of the following categories are encouraged.</i> ” Would a proposed solution directed at prevention of HIV infections be considered under this funding opportunity since prevention will impact the sustainability of treatment initiation and maintenance?	The focus of this Addendum is to support HIV care and treatment in South Africa. Expressions of Interest directed towards engaging an additional 2 million people on HIV treatment in South Africa will be most competitive. Please note also the evaluation criteria on page 5 of the full funding announcement: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=308011
7	16 August, 2018	Please clarify the call for proposal time frame.	This is a 4-stage process, as described on pages 6-7 of the full funding announcement: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=308011 The close date for Expressions of Interest is September 18, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. SAST. The timeframe for completing the 4 stages will depend on the Expressions of Interest received. USAID and its partners will complete each stage as quickly as possible, but expect to complete the award process no later than Quarter 2 of the 2019 Fiscal Year (by March 2019).
8	20 August, 2018	Where will the co-creation workshop be located?	The co-creation workshop is tentatively planned to be held in South Africa, with the possibility of virtual participation. However, the final location of the workshop will be determined once the list of invited participants is finalized.

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9	21 August, 2018	Please add me to the mailing list.	We do not maintain a mailing list. All information on this opportunity is posted publicly on the application website (https://sa-hiv-innovations.smapply.io/) and on grants.gov (https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=305999) and fedbizopps.gov (https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=fbf6f79d3ebac8172cf19632d7ebb6cf&tab=core&cvie w=0).
10	21 August, 2018	<p>1. Can you direct us to guidance regarding budget guidelines and preparation for private sector entities? Needed guidance includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NICRA for private sector entities • Private sector rate structures (e.g., hourly rates, per diem rates) <p>2. Are private sector entities applying as “Prime” required to have a NICRA at the time of proposal submission?</p>	Applicants should NOT submit a budget at the Expression of Interest stage. Budget guidance will be provided to those invited to submit a full proposal.
11	23 August, 2018	The link for applying [“Apply” button] on www.grants.gov is not working (is greyed out). How then can we make our submission?	<p>All applications for the South African HIV Innovations Accelerator must be submitted through the online application platform under “Programs” (https://sa-hiv-innovations.smapply.io/). Submissions will NOT be accepted via email. Applicants must first register their intent to apply, and if eligible submit an Expression of Interest.</p> <p>Please see the funding announcement Section IV for full submission instructions. The full funding announcement is posted on the application website, and on grants.gov (https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=308011).</p>

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12	23 August, 2018	What is the award ceiling?	<p>Awards are planned to be in the range of \$200,000 to \$1.5 million (USD). The partners anticipate awarding an estimated 10 awards in the \$200,000-\$500,000 range, and an estimated 2-4 awards in the \$800,000-\$1.5 million range. The award size will ultimately depend on the scope of the concept. Note that this is only an estimated range, and the amounts could be smaller or greater depending on the concept.</p> <p>Please see the full funding announcement Section VII. The full funding announcement is posted on the application website, and on grants.gov (https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=308011).</p>
13	23 August, 2018	What is the expected project duration?	<p>PEPFAR funds are appropriated on an annual basis. The expected project duration will depend on the Expression of Interest proposal and the full activity developed from the co-creation process. It may also depend on the availability of co-funding or leveraged funding.</p>
14	23 August, 2018	What are the 27 HIV high burden districts?	<p>The 27 districts are shown on the map on the application website (https://sa-hiv-innovations.smapply.io/), with links to further description in the resource section of the website homepage. The list of 27 districts is below, in order of HIV burden (highest to lowest):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng 2. eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal 3. Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng 4. City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng 5. Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Mpumalanga 6. City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality, Western Cape 7. uMgungundlovu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal

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			8. Bojanala Platinum District Municipality, North West 9. Gert Sibande District Municipality, Mpumalanga 10. Oliver Tambo District Municipality, Eastern Cape 11. King Cetshwayo District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal 12. Zululand District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal 13. Sedibeng District Municipality, Gauteng 14. Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga 15. Ugu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal 16. Uthukela District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal 17. Mopani District Municipality, Limpopo 18. Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality, Free State 19. Capricorn District Municipality, Limpopo 20. Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality, North West 21. Alfred Nzo District Municipality, Eastern Cape 22. Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Eastern Cape 23. Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Free State 24. Chris Hani District Municipality, Eastern Cape 25. Amathole District Municipality, Eastern Cape 26. Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, North West 27. Harry Gwala District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal
15	23 August, 2018	What is the deadline to register intent to apply? After registering the intent when will the applicant be informed of their acceptance to apply?	Applicants may register their intent to apply any time prior to the submission deadline (September 18, 2018, 17:00/5pm SAST). Once registered, eligibility status is communicated through the online platform. Eligible applicants then have immediate access to the application process and materials.
16	23 August, 2018	Please confirm that the Application Summary (Appendix 1) and Expression of Interest (Appendix 2) are lodged online simultaneously.	The Application Summary is described in Appendix 1 of the full funding announcement, but is completed and submitted as an online form. The Expression of Interest is submitted as an upload (.doc or .docx format), using the guidance in Appendix 2 of the full funding announcement. These two components may be submitted at any time prior to the submission deadline.
17	23 August, 2018	Page 5 of the full funding announcement states “DO NOT SUBMIT A BUDGET at the Expression of interest	The description of costs and cost-effectiveness in Section 2 of the Expression of Interest should relate to

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		stage". However, page 10 (Appendix 2) states "Describe the costs and the potential or real cost-effectiveness of your idea". Please confirm the level of costing required given the references on pages 5 and 10.	the potential for scale and sustainability. Applicants should not submit a detailed budget at the Expression of Interest stage, however high-level budget information that considers cost-effectiveness and sustainability is helpful if available.
18	23 August, 2018	Please confirm if all three application processes have the September 18 deadline or if there are earlier deadlines for any of the three below: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Registering Intent to Apply 2. Application Summary Information 3. Expression of Interest 	There are no individual deadlines for these processes. The only submission deadline is September 18, 2018, 17:00/5pm SAST, at which time all information must be complete. See pages 4-5 of the full funding announcement.
19	24 August, 2018	Whilst existing PEPFAR primary partners cannot apply as lead, if they are part of the consortium can they receive sub-awards for new costs related to the project?	Current PEPFAR primary (directly funded) partners can be part of a consortium led by another entity. They may receive sub-awards.
20	24 August, 2018	What is the expected period of performance?	USAID intends to select apparently successful partners as quickly as possible within Quarter 2 of the 2019 Fiscal Year (before March 2019). PEPFAR funds are appropriated on an annual basis. The expected project duration will depend on the Expression of Interest proposal and the full activity developed from the co-creation process. It may also depend on the availability of co-funding or leveraged funding.
21	24 August, 2018	Given the innovative nature of the solutions, will the grant allow for and support evidence-building research before being put into full-scale operation?	Please see page 3 of the full funding announcement. We are looking for Expressions of Interest, including for research, that demonstrate the following attributes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation, including creativity of the given approach and clear differentiation from existing approaches

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low cost and suitability for South African settings, particularly the 27 highest HIV- burdened districts • Ability to be scaled rapidly and cost effectively in the South African context • Strong likelihood of achieving a substantial impact • Deployable to make significant improvements in the near-term (several months of initial investment) <p>As noted on page 3 of the full funding announcement, research that does not provide a clear path to development and testing of intervention strategies; basic research; clinical trials; and laboratory research are not priorities for this funding opportunity.</p>
22	24 August, 2018	Is there a weighted or numerical scoring scheme for the described “Evaluation Criteria”?	There is not a weighted or numerical scoring scheme at the Expression of Interest stage.
23	24 August, 2018	Is the lead organisation (or any consortium partners) required to have a DUNS number, approved NICRA rates or any other specific USG contracting requirements?	<p>All organizations must be formed and legally incorporated, have the capacity to successfully execute the activities in their respective areas of expertise, and be capable of receiving and administering award funding.</p> <p>Applicants invited to proceed to the concept paper stage must meet the requirements for receiving funds from the US government, including having a DUNS number. However, these are not required at the Expression of Interest stage.</p>
24	24 August, 2018	Is there a previous funding requirement for the lead organization or consortium partners?	There is no requirement for previous funding.
25	24 August, 2018	Is there a “years active” requirement for the lead organization or consortium partners?	There is no requirement for “years active”.

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26	24 August, 2018	What is the expected duration of the intervention/program to be awarded?	PEPFAR funds are appropriated on an annual basis. The expected project duration will depend on the Expression of Interest proposal and the full activity developed from the co-creation process. It may also depend on the availability of co-funding or leveraged funding.
27	24 August, 2018	What is the expected implementation start date?	USAID intends to select apparently successful partners as quickly as possible within Quarter 2 of the 2019 Fiscal Year (before March 2019). Actual implementation start date will depend on the Expression of Interest proposal and the full activity developed from the co-creation process.