Request for Application

Illinois Hepatitis B Outreach, Awareness, and Education to Foreign Born Asian and African Immigrant and Refugee Communities Initiative

Fiscal Year 2014

Illinois Department of Public Health
Center for Minority Health Services
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Applications due date is Friday, September 27, 2013

A technical assistance conference call will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. for interested parties. To access the call dial 1-888-494-4032; access code 4652155156. Your participation is not required to be eligible for funding.

Executive Summary:

The Illinois Department of Public Health Center for Minority Health Services is accepting applications from organizations that are interested in participating in the Illinois Hepatitis B Outreach, Awareness, and Education to Foreign Born Asian and African Immigrant and Refugee Communities Initiative. The Initiative, funded through State of Illinois general revenue funding, funds Hepatitis B outreach and education programs targeting underserved foreign born Asian and African immigrant and refugee populations with educational messaging and referral linkages to screening and vaccination services. The main focus of any funded program shall not be screening, vaccination, or treatment efforts, but the outreach to, and the education of, the target population regarding Hepatitis B and referral and linkage opportunities for screening, vaccination, and treatment services. These specific efforts are necessary due to the unique problems that many of these individuals may face that places them at greater risk for Hepatitis B infection. Higher rates of chronic Hepatitis B infection exist particularly among foreign born populations from Asia and Africa. Illinois has the 5th largest Asian American population in the United States and has long been an immigrant destination state with nearly two-thirds of Asian Americans who are foreign born. Programs should be unique, culturally innovative, and increase ongoing efforts of the Department to eliminate the disparities in screenings, vaccinations, medical management, transmission, and overall health outcomes experienced by Asian and African immigrant and refugee communities relative to Hepatitis B.

Funding Opportunity Title:	Illinois Hepatitis B Outreach, Awareness, and Education to Foreign Born Asian and African Immigrant and Refugee Communities
Due Date for Applications:	**Friday, September 27, 2013**
Application Processing:	Applications for this funding opportunity must be submitted through the Illinois Department of Public Health's Electronic Grant Application Management System (EGrAMS). Both the applicant organization and an individual submitting an application on its behalf are required to obtain accounts on EGrAMS in order to submit an application. Instructions for using EGrAMS are available at **http://www.idph.state.il.us/grant_rfps/Fy14/EGrAMS_Quick_Start_Guide.pdf.**
Eligible Applicants:	Legally recognized organizational entities are eligible to apply for this funding. Applications from individual persons will not be considered. Grants may be made to individual organizations or to lead agencies distributing sub-grants to partnering individual organizations. **Only organizations based in Illinois are eligible for funding.**

Funding Amount:	$458,000.00 is available; however, the number and amount of individual awards is to be determined.
Funding Period:	October 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014

I. Background

Hepatitis B is a serious global health problem that disproportionately affects immigrant and refugee populations. It can range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong illness. Chronically infected persons are at high risk for cirrhosis, liver cancer, and liver failure. Hepatitis B is preventable through early detection and vaccination.

According to estimates, more than 1.3 million foreign born residents of the United States are living with Hepatitis B. The prevalence of chronic Hepatitis B infection among the foreign born is ten times higher than among native born residents. Approximately forty percent of foreign born individuals living with Hepatitis B immigrate from three countries - China, Vietnam, and the Philippines, where endemic rates are high. Data also shows that approximately 11% of those living with Hepatitis B originate from sub-Saharan Africa where the disease is hyper-endemic. This provides convincing data that numerous and diverse foreign born populations in the United States are at risk for chronic Hepatitis B.

Illinois has the 5th largest Asian American population in the United States and is home to nearly two-thirds of Asian Americans who are foreign born. The African immigrant population continues to grow and represents approximately 5% of Illinois immigrants.

II. Funding Opportunity Description

The Illinois Department of Public Health Center for Minority Health Services is requesting applications for Hepatitis B outreach and education programs targeting underserved foreign born Asian and African immigrants and refugees. The Center for Minority Health Services is specifically looking for organizations with the capacity and demonstrated success in providing culturally competent services to the identified population. Programs should be unique, culturally innovative and provide education, outreach, and awareness regarding Hepatitis B and the importance of screenings and vaccinations in a culturally competent manner that will increase the number of individuals within the target population who are linked to screening and vaccination services. The main focus of any funded program shall not be screening, vaccination, or treatment efforts, but the outreach to, and the education of, the target population regarding Hepatitis B and referrals and linkages to opportunities for screening, vaccination, and treatment services. These program characteristics should be carefully detailed within the application.

Successful applicants must demonstrate their capacity to successfully provide services to their selected population, and demonstrate experience working collaboratively with entities that provide medical service access to the target population. Applicants who propose to target specific risk groups within the selected special population will be noted as having demonstrated

responsiveness based on the epidemiology of their proposed target area. Successful applicants should incorporate strategies that will result in an increase in the number of individuals from the target population that are aware of Hepatitis B and the associated risk factors, an increase in the number of individuals who are aware of the safety and effectiveness of the Hepatitis B vaccine, and an increase in the number of individuals who are linked to screening and vaccination services.

Successful applicants must implement interventions that are scalable, cost–effective and have demonstrated potential to increase screening and vaccination rates within the target population to yield a major impact on the disparities in Hepatitis B infection rates. Agencies funded to provide services must themselves conduct, collaborate with another agency, or have referral linkage agreements in place to provide screening and vaccination services. These elements must be clearly stated and documented within the application.

III. Program Expectations

Asian and African immigrant and refugee communities are multidimensional and one size does not fit all. It is expected that successful programs will employ a holistic outreach and education approach through the construction of a wholly integrated, systematic program plan. That plan should acknowledge and address the cultural and linguistical nuances that are unique to the target population, as well as the social, physical, mental, emotional, and environmental disparities and related stigmas experienced by the target population. These specific efforts are necessary due to the unique problems that many of these individuals may face that places them at greater risk for Hepatitis B infection. The overarching goals of the Hepatitis B Outreach and Education to Foreign Born Asian and African Immigrant and Refugee Communities initiative are to:

- Increase culturally and linguistically competent holistic Hepatitis B outreach and education efforts within identified underserved foreign born Asian and African immigrant and refugee communities that address not only an individual's Hepatitis B risk, but those cultural and societal issues and co-factors that result in disparities in screening and vaccination rates within this population.
- Increase culturally and linguistically competent holistic Hepatitis B outreach and education efforts within identified underserved foreign born Asian and African immigrant and refugee communities that will result in an increase in screening and vaccination rates.
- Increase culturally and linguistically competent holistic Hepatitis B outreach and education efforts within identified underserved foreign born Asian and African immigrant and refugee communities that will result in the decrease/elimination of the perinatal transmission of Hepatitis B through the assurance that pregnant women are screened for Hepatitis B and their infants are age-appropriately vaccinated against Hepatitis B.
- Decrease Hepatitis B risk behaviors within identified underserved foreign born Asian and African immigrant and refugee communities through the utilization of culturally and linguistically competent holistic outreach and education methods that include, but are not limited to, messaging regarding the safety and effectiveness of the Hepatitis B vaccine and the risk factors associated with household contact with individuals who are

chronically infected.

- The main focus of any funded program shall not be screening, vaccination, or treatment efforts, but the outreach to, and the education of, foreign born Asian and African immigrants and refugees regarding Hepatitis B, and referrals and linkages to opportunities for screening, vaccination, and treatment services.

IV. Successful Applicants Will

- Develop and implement culturally innovative outreach and education strategies by utilizing unique ways of contacting, and providing education and referrals to individuals from the target population in both group and individual settings. Applicant must also demonstrate an effective recruitment strategy.
- Demonstrate a viable plan for the sustainability of the funded outreach, education, and referral and linkage opportunities to screening, vaccination, and treatment services upon the conclusion of the current funding period.
- Collaborate with the Center for Minority Health Services Evaluation Team to document data for formative, process and outcome evaluation for the Hepatitis B outreach and education programs developed by the grantee.
- Submit a monthly narrative, activity, and expenditure report in a timely manner by the 15th of each month and a detailed final report no later than July 30, 2014. Failure to submit reports as required may result in termination of grant funding.
- Attend all mandatory grantee meetings.

V. Applicant Requirements

- Key staff members of the grantee organization and any sub-grantee organization must have a minimum of two years experience providing Hepatitis B and/or significantly related outreach and education activities to the proposed targeted underserved foreign born Asian and/or African immigrant or refugee population and provide documentation of that experience with the application.
- Grantee organization, any sub-grantee organization, and key staff members of applicable organizations must demonstrate the capacity to successfully provide Hepatitis B outreach and education services to members of the proposed underserved foreign born Asian and/or African immigrant or refugee population.
- Grantee organization and any sub-grantee organizations must have documented proof of appropriate screening and vaccination service referral linkage agreements, and an explanation as to how these collaborators will contribute to the overall accomplishment of program description and objectives.

VI. Scopes of Service

- Develop and implement SMART objectives related to Hepatitis B outreach, awareness, and education strategies to the proposed target population.

- Develop and implement SMART objectives related to increasing the number of individuals from the proposed target population who are referred and/or linked to screening and vaccination services.

- Develop and implement SMART objectives related to the elimination of perinatal transmission of Hepatitis B within the proposed target population, including, but not limited to ensuring that pregnant women are screened for Hepatitis B and that their infants are age-appropriately vaccinated against Hepatitis B.

- Develop and implement SMART objectives directed to the proposed target population to decrease risk factors for transmitting and acquiring Hepatitis B.

- Develop a final report that will include, but not be limited to:

    - A final report discussing findings, limitations, and any recommendations from the program
    - A complete report offering specific information and presentation of process data
    - A final report on knowledge, attitudes and behaviors based on program implementation and the adaption of outreach and education strategies utilized by grantee

VII. Application and Submission Process

Applications for this funding opportunity must be submitted through the Illinois Department of Public Health's Electronic Grant Application Management System (EGrAMS), and received no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday, September XX, 2013. Both the applicant organization and the individual submitting an application on its behalf are required to obtain accounts on EGrAMS in order to submit an application. The application includes a budget detail template that requires cost justification in each of nine categories. Please ensure that all instructions are followed and all required information is submitted. All sections of the application must be completed in their entirety.

Applications shall include a detailed description of the proposed project to include objectives, outcomes, timeline, and a work plan describing when and how the objectives will be met. Objectives shall be specific, measurable, attainable/achievable, relevant, and time bound, and activities supporting attainment of objectives shall be described. The program plan shall demonstrate innovative or new efforts. Successful applicants shall identify how the proposed project relates to the Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Minority Health Services Illinois Hepatitis B Outreach and Education to Foreign Born Asian and African Immigrant and Refugee Communities Initiative.

Program information contained within the application must include, but is not limited to:

- Detailed description/information about the proposed project
- Expected outcomes and a description of how they will be measured
- Proposed timeline
- List of goals to be accomplished during the grant period
- Objectives by quarter (at a minimum) with a list of tasks that will be implemented to accomplish the objectives. The organization shall specify how the objectives will be measured to determine successful completion. Although objectives are identified on a quarterly basis, monthly activity, narrative, and expenditure reports will be required.
- Detailed budget by line item and justification.

VIII. Payment Methodology

Funds awarded to successful applicants will be provided on a monthly reimbursement basis. The grantee will document actual expenditures on a monthly basis and submit an Illinois Department of Public Health Certification Form accompanied by a monthly narrative, activity, and expenditure report to include appropriate supporting fiscal documentation. After review and approval of program activity, narrative, and expenditure reports, a voucher will be prepared and processed through the Office of the State Comptroller for payment. Reimbursement requests must be submitted monthly and the final reimbursement request must be received by the Illinois Department of Public Health Center for Minority Health Services no later than July 30, 2014.

Awards will be made after the Department's grant review process has been completed. Submitting an application ensures that you will be in the pool of potential applicants considered for funding. It is not a guarantee of an award.