

**African American AIDS Response Act (AAARA)
Request for Applications (RFA)
SFY2015 Announcements and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

Announcements

The African-American AIDS Response Act RFA due date has been extended to February 28th, 2014.

Two EGrAMS - Electronic Grants Administration & Management System Trainings will be held!

Chicago: Friday, February 14, 2014

- 1st training session: 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. noon (Central Time)
- 2nd training session: 1:30 p.m.– 4 p.m. (Central Time)

Location: University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health (UIC-SPH)
1603 West Taylor Street
Room B-34 (Basement)
Chicago, Illinois 60612

CAPACITY: 31 for each training session

REGISTRATION LINKS:

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1474424>

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1474465>

Springfield: Tuesday, February 18, 2014

- 1st training: 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Central Time)
- 2nd training: 1p.m.-3:30 p.m. (Central Time)

Location: Capital City Training Center
(217) 782-1086
130 West Mason Street
Springfield, Illinois 62702

CAPACITY: 20 for each training session

REGISTRATION LINKS:

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1474511>

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1474526>

TARGET AUDIENCE FOR EGrAMS TRAINING:

Agencies who wish to apply for Illinois Department of Public Health grants; potential applicants for 2014 Quality of Life and African-American AIDS Response Act funding opportunities; IDPH HIV Section staff who review grants.

DUE TO LIMITED SPACE ONLY ONE PERSON PER AGENCY WILL BE ALLOWED TO REGISTER AND ATTEND. IF SPACE IS OPEN CLOSER TO THE TRAINING, THIS MAY BE WAIVED.

FAQs

- 1) **Question:** Can I submit a grant application for HIV High Impact Prevention (HIP) based services and a separate grant application for capacity building funds?

Answer: Only one RFA proposal may be submitted per applicant. Proposal amounts, including requests for capacity building, may not exceed \$100,000.

- 2) **Question:** In the 2014 Risk Group Definitions and Points of Consideration under Section 2, part of the definition for HIV positive and HIV negative High Risk Heterosexuals (HRH) states:

An HRH is defined as

- Females with a laboratory-confirmed STDs in the past 12 months.
- Females who ever had condomless anal sex with a male.
- For evaluation only: Females who have had sex with males while using crack.

Why does the above section of the HRH definition not pertain to males and females?

Research demonstrates that the epidemic is being fueled by individuals who do not know their status; research also indicates that having STDs places individuals at increased risk for disease acquisition, and having unprotected or condomless sex is a risk behavior for both parties involved in vaginal or anal sex; therefore, males or females with STDs are engaging in condomless sex should be tested for HIV.

Answer: First, to clarify, females who report a laboratory confirmed STD in the last 12 months meet the above criteria; an actual physical copy of the lab report is not needed. In fact, criteria in the definitions are based on self-reported risks. Risk factors included in the prioritized definitions were disclosed in substantial numbers by actual testing clients and those disclosures correlated with elevated seropositivity rates, mostly at 1 percent or higher.

- 3) **Question:** As it relates to Partner Services, if an African- American HRH, MSM, or MSM/IDU tests positive, the community-based organization (CBO) or tester should be encouraged to test the sexual partner regardless of their ethnicity or race. Would the agency/tester be compensated for the service under the fee for service agreement?

Answer: An AAARA grantee agency would be compensated under fee for service if the partner that was tested was African American and fell into one of the agency's designated risk group definitions. If the partner was not African American and did not fall under one of the prioritized risk groups, the agency would not be compensated under fee for service reimbursement. The agency, however, is encouraged to test the partner.

- 4) **Question:** On Risk Group Definitions and Points of Consideration, under other points of consideration bullet three, **“Persons in circumstances that may be associated with risk vulnerability, such as incarceration or domestic violence, may be prioritized in any risk group based on their individual risk and biomedical histories,”** is this a category that is considered in FFS reimbursement?

Answer: Counselors should consider these factors when screening potential clients for counseling and testing sessions. However, these factors alone do not necessarily mean a person will be classified as “high risk” or the person will meet risk group definitions for a prioritized population.

- 5) **Question:** On the 2014 Risk Group Definitions and Points of Consideration How does #5 “HIV positive persons with Other Risk” factor into FFS Reimbursement as a prioritized risk group?

Answer: The prioritized population of “HIV positive person with Other Risk” is defined as any male, female, MTF or FTM who:

- Is not known to meet the MSM, IDU, HRH, or MSM/IDU definitions.
- Who has been reported to IDPH HIV Surveillance as confirmed HIV positive.
- Who meets one of the following criteria:
 - HIVdiagnosed within the past 12 months.
 - No CD4 or VL reported within the past 12 months.
 - An STI co-infection reported within the past 12 months.

The new Prioritized Population of “People with HIV (Other Risk)” was vetted and recommended by the ILHPG to address a specific challenge experienced in conducting Surveillance-based Services (SBS). The ILHPG has made a recommendation that “PWHIV Other Risk” be prioritized for all interventions and strategies except for HIV Testing and Prevention for Negatives. Prior to implementation, the HIV Prevention Unit will need to vet this recommendation with regards to specific grant requirements.

- 6) **Question:** Is there any way around the majority of board members being African American?

Answer: No. Part B of Section 691.300 Eligibility for Grant Award for the AAARA Grant set forth by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules Administrative Code states that in order for an agency to be eligible to receive a grant from the fund, the applicant must have a board of directors, the majority of members of which are African American.

- 7) **Question:** Are the Quality of Life grant and the AAARA Grant the same things?

Answer: No. See legislative rules for each program.

1/31/2014

- 8) **Question:** Is there a limit to the number of grants that a fiduciary agency can be listed on and how does the Department differentiate between the grants?

Answer: If the question concerns the ability of an agency to be listed as a subcontracted entity for fiscal agent responsibilities related to the grant, there are no limits. The agency submitting the application, not the fiscal agency, must be the applicant that officially submits the proposed request for funding.