

Climate Change Proposal Technical Assistance Call

June 18, 2009

1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. EDT

Questions and Answers

- 1. What is the goal of the training for the health department staff?**
-The training should include an understanding of the science of climate change and the health impacts at a broad level. It should also educate on specific methodologies used to assess the impacts and adaptation strategies (GIS, statistical analyses, etc.).
- 2. Will this proposal look for areas that will be more affected by climate change?**
-The impacts of climate change are going to be very diverse. Out west, water quality will be an issue. In the east, there will be high impact heat waves and degrading air quality, coastal areas will be affected by storm surges and salt water intrusion. The response will be needed from all areas, so this proposal will not focus on specific areas.
- 3. Is the RFP intended for new projects, or is it open to projects which have already completed portions of the gap analysis?**
-It is intended to support activities at various levels of engagement.
- 4. Do you anticipate other funds be made available for program implementation?**
-Yes, this proposal represents phase 1 of a multiple phase process.
- 5. Should you use an external source to the internal needs assessment?**
-This decision will be left to the health department as they know their capacity to perform this work. External hiring in this way would lead to a weaker application as it would not be building internal capacity in this area.
- 6. Do you want both a line item budget and a budget narrative? Is this part of the nine-page limit?**
-Yes, both of these items are requested, but they are not included as part of the nine page limit.
- 7. Using the grants, can we contract with a local organization to conduct some of the training?**
-If there is expertise at a local university, it would make sense. If there is a way to demonstrate that these are needs that need to be brought in, that is acceptable, but it needs to also demonstrate that this is going to increase the internal capacity of the health department.
- 8. Is there a travel standard cost that applicants should include?**

-NACCHO budgets approximately \$1400 for travel per person. Destination is to be determined, but DC is the most likely location.

9. Can proposals address mobilizing communities to mitigate the effects of global warming rather than reacting to the consequences of global warming?

-Yes, but proposals could address engaging with efforts to mitigate the impacts of global warming. Public health has a role to play in mitigating effects through showing the health impacts and assessing the negative impacts of certain strategies. Engaging with local climate action plans would add strength to the proposal.

10. For communities that have not conducted a formal assessment, can you suggest what indicators would be useful for a gap analysis?

-Indicators of impact of climate change on a community. Rather than using the term indicators, it may be better to use an assessment of categories of core competencies. Examples include workforce development, access to surveillance data, and knowledge about the issue in the health department.

11. Could you elaborate on where to find the self-assessment tools which Jen spoke about?

-If you are referring to PACE EH and MAPP, they can be found on NACCHO's website (www.naccho.org).

12. Will the information presented today be available for future use?

-They will be posted on NACCHO's website in the same location that today's webinar information was posted.

13. Will NACCHO still consider an application in which an LHD has a smaller role in a greater community coalition role?

-The application will be considered, but the main function of this proposal is to build capacity at the local health department.

14. What does the sentence mean in the RFP about "what capacity exists in the community to evaluate activities which will be identified in the strategic plan"?

-This portion refers to what capacity currently exists in the local health department which will help you engage in strategic planning activities. "The community" also refers to external partners who could assist in these efforts.

15. Our local health department has an air quality division which is funded by the Clean Air Act funding sources. Would there be a conflict in leveraging this internal capacity within this grant application?

-No, that would be a great opportunity.

16. Has the CDC developed a methodology for local health departments to deal with the health impacts of global warming?

-No, they do not have any guidance because this is a brand new program. This proposal is not looking for local health departments to think of methods to respond, but what capacities in the local health department need funding in order to address these issues. There is interest in mitigation and how local health departments can sit at the table during these efforts.

17. In terms of community assessment, what is the difference between PACE EH and MAPP and which would be recommended?

-PACE EH is a tool to identify, prioritize, and act on environmental health issues in a jurisdiction. MAPP is a strategic planning tool for all public health areas, not just environmental health. Impacts from climate change will not only be “environmental”, they will also include disease control and prevention, etc. The assessment tool you use should reflect this, so there would be strengths to each approach.

18. If the health department has expertise in evaluation, do we need to use an external source?

-No, if the capacity is there to do it “in-house”, that would be beneficial and save a lot of money.