

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**[Announcement 557]****Cooperative Agreement for Occupational Safety and Health Silicosis Prevention Partnership****Introduction**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), announces the availability of funds for fiscal year (FY) 1995 for a cooperative agreement program for occupational safety and health silicosis prevention partnership.

The Public Health Service (PHS) is committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives of Healthy People 2000, a PHS-led national activity to reduce morbidity and mortality and improve the quality of life. This announcement is related to the priority area of Occupational Safety and Health. (For ordering Healthy People 2000 see the Section Where To Obtain Additional Information.)

Authority

This program is authorized under Sections 20(a) and 22(e)(7) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 [29 U.S.C. 669(a) and 671(e)(7)].

Smoke-Free Workplace

The PHS strongly encourages all grant recipients to provide a smoke-free workplace and promote the nonuse of all tobacco products, and Public Law 103-227, the Pro-Children Act of 1994, prohibits smoking in certain facilities that receive Federal funds in which education, library, day care, health care, and early childhood development services are provided to children.

Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by public and private, non-profit and for-profit organizations and governments and their agencies. Thus, universities, colleges, research institutions, hospitals, other public and private organizations, State and local health departments or their bona fide agents, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, Indian tribes or Indian tribal organizations, and small, minority- and/or women-owned businesses are eligible to apply.

Availability of Funds

Approximately \$250,000 is available in FY 1995 to fund one to two awards. It is expected that the award(s) will begin on or about September 30, 1995, for a 12-month budget period within a

project period of up to three years. Funding estimates may vary and are subject to change.

Continuation awards within the project period will be made on the basis of satisfactory progress and the availability of funds.

Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to conduct a program of applied research to identify barriers to the successful application of recognized prevention methods and identify effective measures that will promote the prevention of silicosis.

Potential areas of exploration include, but are not limited to: (1) Work organization and behavioral factors which influence the acceptance of (or resistance to) occupational exposure to silica dust; (2) economic incentives and disincentives for silicosis prevention, especially those which are built into existing or alternative systems for controlling dust exposures, providing health care, purchasing insurance, and compensating disabled workers; (3) educational materials and technical manuals available to workers, employers, and design engineers with roles in preventing silicosis; and (4) successes and shortcomings of current inspection and enforcement activities. Exploration of these areas will require a variety of approaches which might include scientific comparisons of the effectiveness of alternative prevention strategies, including lessons learned from the control of other hazardous materials; statistical analyses of existing data; focus groups; and theoretical and observational studies by behavioral and other social scientists, engineers, and educators.

Program Requirements

In conducting activities to achieve the purpose of this program, the recipient will be responsible for conducting activities under A. (Recipient Activities), and CDC/NIOSH will be responsible for conducting activities under B. (CDC/NIOSH Activities).

A. Recipient Activities

1. Identify existing barriers to implementation of known effective silicosis prevention methods based on available information and on data collected as a part of this agreement, when necessary.

2. Identify potential promotion strategies to test for their effectiveness in removing the barriers to successful prevention of silicosis.

3. Develop and carry out protocols for implementing and evaluating the effectiveness of the selected promotion

methods in various exposure situations for which they were designed.

4. Based on the results of testing the promotion strategies and available data from any sources deemed appropriate, recommend effective measures or programs (sets of measures) available and applicable for use and that others can take for improved, broad implementation of silicosis preventions. These measures should be comprised of the most effective job- and industry-specific actions, based on their ability to remove the barriers to silicosis prevention, actually result in a reduction of silica exposure, and prevent silicosis.

B. CDC/NIOSH Activities

1. Participate in selection of strategies most appropriate for testing;

2. Assist in the development of the overall plan of study design for this project; lending technical expertise on industrial hygiene, control technology engineering, education, information dissemination, behavioral and social science, human factors, intervention (i.e., program) evaluation, both qualitative and quantitative research methods; and

3. Provide assistance on the methods for the collection of data, including participating in field studies, as well as in the analysis and publication of data related to the project.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Responsiveness to the application content specified above, as well as demonstration of an understanding of the objectives of the proposed cooperative agreement, and the relevance of the proposal to the objectives. (40%)

2. Feasibility of meeting the proposed objectives of the cooperative agreement, including a proposed schedule for initiating and accomplishing each of the objectives of the cooperative agreement, and a proposed method for evaluating the accomplishments. (20%)

3. Training and experience of the proposed Program Director and staff, demonstrating that the Program Director is a recognized technical expert appropriate to the task and staff has training or experience sufficient to accomplish the proposed objectives. (20%)

4. The extent to which the institution has a program of recognized, documented expertise in publication, information collection, and information dissemination in the area of preventing occupational disease. (10%)