

and their agencies. Thus, universities, colleges, research institutions, hospitals, other public and private organizations, State and local governments 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 \$85,000 is available in FY 95 to fund one award. It is expected that the awards will begin on or about September 30, 1995, and will be made 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 project is to contribute to silicosis prevention efforts as follows:

1. Identification of high silicosis-risk metal/nonmetal and coal surface mine drilling workers/operations and development of a plan to assess the effectiveness of the 1970 engineering control-based metal-nonmetal surface mine drilling standard in preventing silicosis. (Phase I)
2. Assessment of training effectiveness in a limited number of metal/nonmetal and coal surface mine drilling operations for purposes of targeting operations for intervention surveillance (e.g., work practices, maintenance, engineering controls). (Phase II)
3. Follow-up surveillance to evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions. (Phase III)

Program Requirements

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

A. Recipient Activities

1. Design a study to identify high silicosis-risk populations of metal/nonmetal and coal surface mine drillers; including small and large employers, contractors, unionized and nonunionized operations.
2. Identify a sample of present or former surface mine drillers who have been diagnosed with silicosis; provide "case study" reports.

3. Evaluate current work practices and exposure conditions at a variety of operations. This evaluation should include an assessment of the effectiveness of current training efforts, maintenance programs, engineering controls and driller work practices.

4. Recommend new or modified training efforts, maintenance programs, engineering controls or driller work practices which will reduce worker exposures to silica.

5. Evaluate the effectiveness of interventions which are implemented.

6. Publish results of the study.

B. CDC/NIOSH Activities

1. Provide scientific, epidemiologic, engineering, environmental, and clinical technical assistance (as needed) to the recipient for successful completion of this project.

2. Assist in the development of the overall plan or study design for this project.

3. Collaborate with the recipient on the methods for collection, tabulation, analysis, and publication of data related to the project.

4. In consultation with Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) obtain and provide available information on MSHA sampling results, MSHA survey data, training videos, etc.

5. May provide (within the limits of available funding, manpower restraints and privacy/regulatory considerations) health screening (chest radiographs) for a limited number of targeted surface miners.

6. Assist in the design and implementation of the evaluation plan for the project.

Evaluation Criteria

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

1. The qualifications and efficient use of current and proposed project personnel, with assurance of a major time commitment of the program director to the program. Technical qualifications of importance include, but are not limited to, experience in conducting investigations of the mining industry, knowledge of the technical aspects of drilling, and experience with worker education and training (to include evaluations of worker training program effectiveness). (35%)
2. The adequacy of the applicant's facilities and resources for purposes of evaluating surface mine driller training. Important qualifications include program/facility history of developing and implementing worker training programs. (10%)
3. The adequacy of the project plan or methodology. The proposed plan and

methods should demonstrate a clear understanding and application of the goals and objectives for this program. Novel approaches and ideas that contribute to attainment of the program's goals and objectives are encouraged. Important components include the method of identification of high silicosis-risk surface mine drilling operations and the plan for assessment of effectiveness of the intervention strategies being used. How closely the project's objectives fit the objectives for which applications were invited. (40%)

4. Efficient use of resources and uniqueness of program. Evidence of collaboration with outside organizations (e.g., labor, universities, government agencies) using shared resources towards common goals and the demonstrated ability to solicit and receive financial resources from outside the organization. (15%)

5. Budget and justification. (not scored)

The budget will be evaluated to the extent that it is reasonable, clearly justified, and consistent with the intended use of the funds.

Executive Order 12372 Review

This program is not subject to the Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

Public Health System Reporting Requirements

This program is not subject to the Public Health System Reporting Requirements.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number for this program is 93.283.

Other Requirements

Paperwork Reduction Act

Projects that involve the collection of information from ten or more individuals and funded by this cooperative agreement will be subject to review and approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Human Subjects

If the proposed project involves research on human subjects, the applicant must comply with the Department of Health and Human Services Regulations, 45 CFR part 46, regarding the protection of human subjects. Assurance must be provided to demonstrate the project will be subject to initial and continuing review by an appropriate institutional review