

applicants will be asked to provide proof of mailing by the deadline date. When proof is not provided, an application will not be considered for funding. Private metered postmarks are not acceptable as proof of timely mailing.

Hand-delivered applications will be accepted Monday through Friday prior to and on August 28, 1995 during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Hubert H. Humphrey building located at 200 Independence Avenue, SW., in Washington, D.C. when hand delivering an application, call 690-8794 from the lobby for pickup. A staff person will be available to receive applications. Applications which do not meet the August 28, 1995 deadline will not be considered or reviewed. HHS will send a letter to this effect to each late applicant.

HHS reserves the right to extend the deadline for all applications if there is widespread disruption of the mail because of extreme weather conditions or natural disasters or if HHS determines an extension to be in the best interest of the Government. However, HHS will not waive or extend the deadline for any applicant unless the deadline is waived or extended for all applicants.

Selection Process and Evaluation Criteria

Selection of the successful applicants will be based on the technical criteria laid out in this announcement. Reviewers will determine the strengths and weaknesses of each application in terms of the evaluation criteria listed below, provide comments and assign numerical scores. The review panel will prepare a summary of all applicant scores, strengths, weaknesses and recommendations.

The point value following each criterion heading indicates the maximum numerical weight that each section will be given in the review process. An unacceptable rating on any individual criterion may render the application unacceptable. Consequently, applicants should take care to ensure that all criteria are fully addressed in the applications. Applications will be reviewed as follows:

Evaluation Criteria

1. *Goals, Objectives, and Potential Usefulness of the Analyses.* (25 points). The potential usefulness of the objectives and how the anticipated results of the proposed project will advance scientific knowledge and policy development.

2. *Methodology and Design.* (35 points). The appropriateness,

soundness, and cost-effectiveness of the methodology, including the research design, statistical techniques, analytical strategies, the selection of existing data sets, and other procedures.

3. *Qualifications of Personnel and Organizational Capability.* (25 points). The qualifications of the project personnel for conducting the proposed research as evidenced by professional training and experience, and the capacity of the organization to provide the infrastructure and support necessary for the project.

4. *Work Plan and Budget.* (15 points). Is the plan reasonable? Are the activities sufficiently detailed to ensure successful, timely implementation? Do they demonstrate an adequate level of understanding by the applicant of the practical problems of conducting such a project? Is the proposed budget reasonable and sufficient to ensure completion of the study?

Disposition of Applications

1. *Approval, disapproval, or deferral.* On the basis of the review of an application, the ASPE will either (a) approve the application in whole, as revised, or in part for an amount of funds and subject to such conditions as are deemed necessary or desirable for the research project; or (b) disapprove the application; or defer action on the application for such reasons as a lack of funds or a need for further review.

2. *Notification of disposition.* The ASPE will notify the applicants of the disposition of their application. A signed notification of the award will be issued to notify the applicant of the approved application.

3. *The Assistant Secretary's Discretion.* Nothing in this announcement should be construed as to obligate the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation to make any awards whatsoever. Awards and the distribution of awards among the priority areas are contingent on the needs of the Department at any point in time and the quality of the applications which are received.

Components of a Complete Application. A complete application consists of the following items in this order:

1. Application for Federal Assistance (Standard Form 424, Revised 4-88);
2. Budget Information—Non-construction Programs (Standard Form 424A, Revised 4-88);
3. Assurances—Non-construction Programs (Standard Form 424B, Revised 4-88);
4. A table of Contents;
5. Budget Justification for Section B—Budget Categories;

6. Proof of nonprofit status, if appropriate;

7. A copy of the applicant's approved indirect cost rate agreement if necessary;

8. Project Narrative Statement, organized in five sections addressing the following topics:

- (a) Abstract,
- (b) Goals, Objectives and Usefulness of the Project,
- (c) Methodology and design,
- (d) Background of the Personnel and Organizational Capabilities and
- (e) Work plan (timetable);

9. Any appendices/attachments;

10. Certification Regarding Drug-Free Work place;

11. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters;

12. Certification and, if necessary, Disclosure Regarding Lobbying;

Reports. The grantee must submit quarterly progress reports and a final report. The specific format and content for these reports will be provided by the project officer.

State Single Point of Contact (E.O. No. 12372). The Department of Health and Human Services has determined that this program is not subject to Executive Order No. 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, because it is a program that is national in scope and does not directly affect State and local governments. Applicants are not required to seek intergovernmental review of their applications within the constraints of E.O. No. 12372.

Dated: June 21, 1995.

David T. Ellwood,

Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

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Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

[Announcement 530]

The Great Lakes Human Health Effects Research Program

Introduction

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) announces that grant applications will be accepted to conduct research on the impact on human health of fish consumption from the Great Lakes. ATSDR's mission includes the prevention of adverse health effects resulting from human exposure to hazardous substances in the environment. The ATSDR Great Lakes Human Health Effects Research Program will focus on identified populations that have a potentially higher risk of long-