

## Program Requirements

In conducting activities to achieve the purpose of this program, the recipient shall be responsible for the activities under A., below, and CDC shall be responsible for conducting activities under B., below:

### A. Recipient Activities

1. Establish an EISN by developing a new sentinel network for assessing emerging infectious diseases or modifying or expanding an existing network. Organize the EISN around a specific group of providers, i.e., blood banks, clinical microbiology laboratories, emergency rooms, family practitioners, gynecologists, internists, infectious disease specialists, pediatricians, medical examiners, travel and tropical medicine clinics, etc. EISNs must be sufficiently flexible to be engaged swiftly to address emergent problems in infectious diseases.

2. In collaboration with CDC, conduct one or more specific emerging infectious disease surveillance projects focused on particular syndromes, diseases, conditions, events, etc.

3. Analyze, present, and publish the results of surveillance projects collaboratively with CDC.

4. In collaboration with CDC:

a. Focus and/or redirect surveillance projects as indicated through critical review of data and evaluation of various surveillance projects; and

b. Consider and initiate novel methods of surveillance for emerging infectious diseases; develop and modify as necessary methods for management and communication of information commensurate with requirements of the network.

5. Monitor and evaluate scientific and operational accomplishments of the EISN and progress in achieving the purpose and overall goals of this program.

### B. CDC Activities

1. Provide consultation and scientific and technical assistance in establishing the EISN and in designing and conducting specific surveillance projects. Participate in the selection of EISN projects and collaborate as necessary to address new emerging infectious disease issues.

2. Participate in analysis, publication, and dissemination of information and data gathered from EISN projects.

3. Assist in monitoring and evaluating scientific and operational accomplishments of the EISN and progress in achieving the purpose and overall goals of this program.

## Evaluation Criteria

The applications will be reviewed and evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Understanding the Objectives of the EISN (10 points)

The extent to which the applicant demonstrates a clear understanding of the objectives of this cooperative agreement program.

2. Capacity (30 points)

a. For new networks, the extent to which the applicant demonstrates the capacity to establish a provider-based EISN, including description of the applicant's qualifications and standing to represent a group of providers in a national network and a description of the professional relationships that qualify applicant to propose an EISN representative of a group of providers.

For existing networks, the extent to which the applicant describes how it fills the need for an EISN; the extent to which the applicant describes the niche that the proposed EISN will fill that is not currently filled by other surveillance systems. The extent to which the applicant comments on the long-term potential of the network to provide important information for public health.

b. The extent to which the applicant describes past experience in conducting infectious disease surveillance and/or applied research in infectious diseases, particularly public health-related work. The extent to which the applicant describes past experience in conducting surveillance specifically for emerging infectious diseases, including drug-resistant, food borne and waterborne, and vaccine-preventable or potentially vaccine-preventable diseases.

c. The extent to which the applicant provides letters of support from non-applicant participating agencies, institutions, organizations, individuals, consultants, etc., identified in applicant's operational plan. The extent to which the letters of support clearly indicate the signatory's willingness to participate in the EISN (e.g., as sources of surveillance information or members of the network).

3. Operational Plan (40 points)

a. The extent to which the applicant distinguishes whether the EISN is an extension of an existing surveillance network or a new network. If it is an extension of an existing network, the extent to which the applicant provides a complete and detailed description of the existing network.

b. The extent to which applicant provides a detailed and time-phased plan for establishing and operating the

EISN, which clearly describes the proposed organizational and operating structure/procedures for accomplishing all Recipient Activities. The extent to which the applicant describes agreements currently in place with potential participants in the network, describes what new agreements with potential participants will be necessary, and the likelihood that these agreements can be implemented promptly. The extent to which the applicant intends and describes plans to collaborate with CDC in the establishment and operation of the EISN and in the planning of individual surveillance projects, including planning and development of projects, management and analysis of data, and synthesis and dissemination of findings. The extent to which applicant's plan is consistent with and adequate to accomplish the purpose and objectives of this program.

c. The extent to which the applicant clearly identifies and describes the EISN participants/sources of surveillance information. The extent to which the applicant describes the structure of the EISN "network", such as number, location, etc., of sites or surveillance information sources. The extent to which the applicant describes procedures and mechanisms to transfer information between EISN participants and the central data collection point.

d. The extent to which the applicant's proposed specific surveillance projects are appropriate for the participants/sources in the network and address significant emerging syndromes, diseases, conditions, events, etc. The extent to which applicant clearly identifies specific diseases or conditions (e.g., notifiable diseases, food borne and waterborne diseases, and drug-resistant infections) which will be addressed. The extent to which the applicant describes how cases will be defined, what information will be collected for each case, and the likelihood that such cases will occur with sufficient frequency to provide useful public health information. The extent to which these projects appear feasible and the likelihood they can be successfully conducted.

e. The extent to which the applicant clearly describes how its design for the EISN is flexible and able to swiftly address new public health challenges in infectious diseases.

f. The extent to which the applicant describes an appropriate and effective process for providing necessary information to State and local health departments and appropriate others about findings related to notifiable conditions.