

**Targeted Grants to Reduce Childhood Lead Poisoning
Request for Proposals for FY 2006**

Overview Information

Federal Agency: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances (OPPTS)

**Funding Opportunity Title: Targeted Grants to Reduce Childhood Lead Poisoning:
Request for Proposals 2006**

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-OPPT-06-19

Announcement Type: New Announcement

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NUMBER: 66-716

DATES: The closing date for applicants to submit proposals under this announcement is January 12, 2007.

FULL TEXT ANNOUNCEMENT

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Project Summary

EPA is soliciting grant proposals from eligible entities to conduct activities to reduce incidences of childhood lead poisoning in vulnerable populations, including projects to: (1) Reduce lead poisoning in areas with high incidences of elevated blood-lead levels; (2) identify and reduce lead poisoning in under-studied areas with high potential for undocumented elevated blood-lead levels; and (3) develop tools to address unique and challenging issues in lead poisoning prevention, especially tools that are replicable and scalable for other areas. Activities eligible for funding include outreach and public education, data gathering, monitoring, training, inspections and assessments, and demonstrations of new and innovative approaches for identifying or reducing lead poisoning. EPA is awarding grants which will total approximately \$3,000,000. The Agency anticipates awarding individual grants of \$25,000 to \$100,000.

Activities to be funded:

EPA will provide financial assistance in the form of grants to conduct any or all of the following activities:

- i. Outreach (educational) activities, including but not limited to development and conduct of organized outreach efforts to educate families about the dangers to children from exposure to lead-based paint hazards, distribution of educational information, and encouragement of families to have their children screened for lead poisoning and have their homes tested for lead hazards.

Activities may include, but are not limited to, training medical professionals, developing culturally specific lead outreach materials, distributing pamphlets, establishing an in-home education program to visit the homes of young children, and promoting lead-safe work practices.

Grantees may develop their own outreach materials; however, the use and reproduction of pre-existing products is strongly encouraged and preferred. In order for specific costs to be allowed under this grant, grantees must secure prior written approval of EPA project officer before authorizing use of funds under this grant to develop and print new outreach materials. EPA and other Federal agencies have developed, and currently provide, a wide range of outreach materials available from our website, www.epa.gov/lead. Any new lead awareness materials developed must be consistent with the Federal (EPA, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, formerly the Centers for Disease Control)) lead hazard awareness and poisoning prevention programs (<http://www.epa.gov/lead/>, <http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/>, and <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/lead.htm/>) and receive approval from the appropriate EPA Regional Lead Contact listed in Unit VII.

ii. Data gathering, including but not limited to assessments such as blood-lead screening and other activities described below, particularly for areas without well-documented rates of lead poisoning. This includes conducting blood-lead screening of children age 6 years and under, preferably of children between the ages of 12–36 months (blood-lead levels tend to be highest in this age group).

All blood lead samples collected must be analyzed using a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-certified facility or laboratory. Portable, hand-held blood lead analyzers may be used, but must be operated by a laboratory or facility that is CLIA certified.

If the facility or laboratory is using the Lead Care II portable blood lead instrument, a CLIA waiver and number must be obtained. Users of the Lead Care II instrument should follow the manufacturer's recommendations regarding venous confirmation by another method for any venous sample blood lead result $\geq 10\mu\text{g/dL}$. Additionally, users must comply with state laws and regulations for reporting of blood lead testing data.

If the original Lead Care instrument or other methods (e.g. GFAAS, 3010B (ASV), ICP-MS) are utilized, the CLIA-certified laboratories or facilities must successfully participate in a testing proficiency program that is CLIA approved. CLIA regulations, published in 1992 (42 CFR part 493), are administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Information regarding CLIA may be downloaded from the CMS web site at <http://www.cms.gov/clia/>.

EPA also encourages the development of new assessment methods which may be used in lieu of blood lead monitoring. In particular, EPA encourages applicants to consider developing new tools to better target populations at risk and to gauge the success of activities funded under this program and other activities designed to combat childhood lead poisoning.

Human Subjects: Please note that EPA has determined that childhood blood lead screening activities do not constitute research as defined by 40 CFR 26.102(d). A grant recipient (who proposes research activities) must agree to meet all EPA requirements for studies using human subjects prior to implementing any work with these subjects. These requirements are given in 40 C.F.R. 26, referred to as the "Common Rule." For observation studies involving

children and/or pregnant women, please refer to subparts B & D 40 C.F.R. 2. No work involving human subjects, including recruiting, may be initiated before the EPA has received a copy of the applicant's Institutional Review Board's (IRB) approval of the project and the EPA has also provided approval. Where human subjects are involved in the research, the recipient must provide evidence of subsequent IRB reviews, including amendments or minor changes of protocol, as part of annual reports.

iii. Inspections and risk assessments of pre-1978 housing and/or child-occupied facilities for lead-based paint hazards. This includes collection and analysis of paint, dust, and soil samples for hazardous lead levels. Inspections and risk assessments may only be conducted by individuals appropriately certified by US EPA and/or under a State or tribal program currently approved by US EPA, and must be conducted according to the work practice standards found in 40 CFR 745.227 or those of the authorized state or tribal program. Analysis of paint, dust, and soil samples must be conducted by a National Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program (NLLAP) recognized laboratory. A current list of NLLAP-recognized laboratories can be obtained at <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/nllap.htm>.

iv. Training. This includes training of individuals, parents, community members, and other critical stakeholders. Worker training includes training to perform abatements, lead inspections, and risk assessments, including initial, refresher, or any other training required to obtain EPA-approved certification to perform lead-based paint inspections and risk assessments. Grant funds cannot be used to pay for any administrative or testing fees for certification to conduct lead inspections and/or risk assessments. Training would also include training of other contractors in lead-safe work practices. Funds can also be used for training of parents and other community members to do outreach and other efforts which do not require certification.

v. Partnership development, including partnerships with public and private entities which have expertise or experience in training, public health, housing, education, nutrition, public education or public relations, and other fields, as part of the performance of eligible activities and which will improve our ability to eliminate childhood lead poisoning.

vi. Quality assurance activities related to the above. All environmental or health-related measurements or data generation must adequately address the requirements of 40 CFR 30.54 and 31.45 relating to quality assurance/quality control. Information on EPA quality assurance requirements may be downloaded from the EPA Quality System web site at <http://www.epa.gov/quality/>. To begin the process of developing the quality assurance documentation, a quality assurance project plan template has been developed that may be helpful to use as a guide. The template may be downloaded from the EPA/OPPT web site at <http://www.epa.gov/lead/new.htm/>. No testing or analytical work may be performed without an approved quality assurance project plan. For further guidance on preparation of the quality documentation and specific EPA Regional Office approval requirements, please contact the appropriate EPA Regional Lead Contact listed in Unit VII.

vii. Proven methods which have been demonstrated to identify and/or reduce lead poisoning in the most difficult-to-reach populations, or innovative approaches which have a high likelihood of successfully identifying and/or reducing childhood lead poisoning.

viii. Travel and related expenses consistent with the objectives of this grant.

Goal and objectives.

EPA seeks to award grants to entities best able to undertake eligible activities (as described above in “Activities to be funded”) that accomplish one or more of the following goals:

- i. To reduce lead poisoning in areas with high incidences of elevated blood-lead levels.
- ii. To identify and reduce lead poisoning in under-studied areas with high potential for undocumented elevated blood-lead levels.
- iii. To develop tools to address unique and challenging issues in lead poisoning prevention (including but not limited to special situations affecting inner cities, rural areas, Indian Country, and Federal facilities), especially those tools that are replicable and scalable for other areas.

The Agency encourages applications that focus on populations at particular risk such as those that live in inner cities, rural areas, Federal facilities, and Indian Country; and immigrant populations, particularly projects affecting low-income populations.

EPA is interested in encouraging innovation, and recognizes that smaller organizations may be uniquely situated to benefit populations that are otherwise hard to reach. Therefore, the award process is designed to be accessible to smaller applicants.

B. Statutory Authority

Section 10 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), as supplemented by Public Law 106–74, authorizes EPA to award grants for the purpose of conducting research, development, monitoring, education, training, demonstrations, and studies necessary to carry out the purposes of TSCA.

C. Alignment with EPA’s Strategic Plan

All proposals must support Goal 4 of EPA’s 2–3-2008 Strategic Plan, Healthy Communities and Ecosystems; Sub-Objective 4.1.3: Reduce Chemical and Biological Risks, which states, “Through 2008, reduce the number of childhood lead poisoning cases to 90,000 from approximately 400,000 cases in 1999/2000” (<http://www.epa.gov/ocfopage/plan/plan.htm>).

D. Measuring Environmental Results

Measuring Environmental Results: Outputs and Outcomes

Pursuant to EPA Order 5700.7, “Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements,” EPA requires that all grant recipients adequately address environmental outputs and outcomes. Outputs and outcomes differ both in their nature and in how they are measured. Applicants must discuss environmental outputs and outcomes in their proposed workplan.

1. **Outputs:** The term “output” means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work products related to an environmental goal or objective, that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during an assistance agreement funding period.

Outputs from projects funded under this solicitation may include but are not limited to:

number of children screened for elevated blood lead levels, number and type of information vehicles distributed, number of persons trained (and certified, if applicable), amount of equipment distributed, number of homes reached by education and outreach, extent of risks addressed (number of homes, types of risks), number of homes assessed for lead risks.

2. **Outcomes:** The term “outcome” means the result, effect, or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related or programmatic in nature, but must be quantitative. They may not necessarily be achievable within an assistance agreement funding period.

Examples of environmental outcomes from projects to be funded under this announcement may include: increased public knowledge and understanding of how to prevent childhood lead poisoning, behavior changes, improvements in housing maintenance, increased numbers of children in lead-safe housing, decreases in elevated blood lead levels for target population, reduction in the number of children with elevated blood lead levels.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Amount of Funding Available

The total amount of funding available under this program at this time will be approximately \$3,000,000. The Agency anticipates awarding individual assistance agreements of \$25,000 to \$100,000. Proposals requesting more than \$100,000 in total funding from EPA will not be reviewed. EPA’s intention is to award both smaller and larger grants, assuming applications of sufficient quality are received; the number of individual grants awarded will be dependent upon the total amount of funding and upon the number of qualified applicants.

B. Funding Type

The funding for selected projects will be in the form of a grant or cooperative agreement awarded under TSCA Section 10. For successful applicants who are awarded a cooperative agreement, the substantial involvement will be specified in the agreement.

C. Start Date/Project Duration

Start dates of individual projects will be dependent upon when each EPA Regional office makes the award. Projects may be one to two years in length.

D. Miscellaneous

Funding for these projects is not guaranteed and is subject to the availability of funds and the

evaluation of proposals based on the criteria in this announcement. EPA reserves the right to partially fund proposals by funding discrete activities, portions, or phases of proposed projects. If EPA decides to partially fund a proposal, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the proposal, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected for award, and that maintains the integrity of the competition and selection process.

EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement without further notice or competition (after the initial award selections are made) if additional funding becomes available. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than 4 months from the date of original selection decisions. The additional selections will be made in accordance with the terms of this announcement and EPA policy.

EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals and make no awards under this announcement.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Who may apply?

Eligible recipients are those which have the ability to directly address childhood lead poisoning in a given population or area. This includes a wide range of potential applicants, such as state, commonwealth, territorial, and possession governments; local governments; federally recognized Indian tribal governments and Federally-recognized Native American Organizations; public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, other public or private nonprofit institutions having 501(c)(3) status; and individuals.

An applicant may submit more than one proposal under this announcement if the proposals are for different projects. Applicants who received one of these grants in the past may submit a new proposal for a different project.

EPA carefully reviews all grant applications selected for award to ensure that grantees who are designated “high risk” by EPA are subject to special conditions in accordance with EPA regulations 40 CFR 30.14 or 40 CFR 31.12. These special conditions include paying the recipient on a reimbursement basis; requiring detailed financial reports from the recipient; imposing additional project monitoring; and/or establishing additional prior approvals as needed. A “high risk” grantee is one that has a documented history of unsatisfactory performance on prior awards; is not financially stable; has not conformed with the terms and conditions of previous awards; or has been designated high risk for other reasons listed in 40 CFR 30.14 or 40 CFR 31.12.

B. Funding Restrictions and Requirements

There are no requirements for cost sharing or matching funding under this grant program. However, applicants will be evaluated on how successful they have been in leveraging resources (see Unit V.).

Applicants may use a portion of the grant funds for contractor support for these activities; however, contractor support may not account for more than 25% of the amount of the grant, except where contract services include blood-lead analysis, training, and/or lead-based paint inspections and risk assessments.

Grant funding may not be used for the following:

1. Buying real property, such as land or buildings.
2. Lead hazard reduction activities, such as performing interim controls or abatement (as defined in 40 CFR 745.223).
3. Construction activities, such as renovation, remodeling, or building a structure.
4. Lead-based paint certification fees for individuals and firms.
5. Contractor support in excess of 25% of the amount of the grant award, except where contract services include blood-lead analysis, training, and/or lead-based paint inspections and risk assessments. This limit does not apply to developing quality assurance documentation. However, while grantees may develop their own quality assurance materials, pre-existing templates for inspection and screening are available and EPA strongly encourages their use.
6. Duplication of funding for any lead-related activities that are being funded or have been previously funded by other EPA or other Federal Government sources. Applicants must include, as an attachment, information on any grants funded in past three years by EPA, HUD, CDC or any Federal department or agency for activities involving lead-based paint. This should include information on federal agency funding source(s), amount of funding, funding period, history of performance reporting on progress and results, and purpose of grant(s).
7. Case-management costs, including medical treatment for children with elevated blood-lead levels (e.g., followup visits by a doctor or chelation therapy). EPA is extremely interested in knowing what actions you plan to follow regarding monitoring, education, and/or treatment for children whose blood-lead levels are determined under this grant program to be elevated (> 10 µg/dL). It is important that the children who are found to have elevated blood-lead levels are treated. Although most case-management costs are not eligible for funding under the grant, a description of specific steps and related information for followup activities must be included in the work plan section of the grant proposal.

EPA grant funds may be used only for the purposes set forth in the assistance agreement, and must be consistent with the statutory authority for the award. Grant funds may not be used as matching funds for other Federal grants, lobbying or intervention in Federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings, and may not be used to sue the Federal government.

C. Eligibility Screening Requirements: Threshold Criteria

Proposals requesting more than \$100,000 in total funding from EPA will not be reviewed. There are no other threshold eligibility factors under this grant program.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. General

The initial proposal must consist of no more than five pages (excluding attachments such as letters of commitment and draft budget forms), with page numbers. One page is one side of a single-spaced typed letter-size page. If a proposal consists of more than five pages, the proposal will be considered but the additional pages will not be reviewed. Proposals must be legible, easily readable, and in English. Fonts should be no smaller than Times Roman 11 point, or equivalent. Pages should have margins that are at least 1 inch. Illegible or unreasonably difficult to read applications may not be reviewed.

B. Proposal Elements

For applicants submitting their proposals via grants.gov, the application must include the standard forms listed in those instructions, as well as information contained in this section. For applicants submitting proposals via mail or fax, these standard forms are not required; there is no application package for the initial submissions via mail or fax for these grants, except for the draft budget forms described in paragraph 3 of this Unit.

The format for the submission must address all of the elements contained in Unit V., and should be organized and outlined as follows:

1. Summary section including:
 - a.. Project title
 - b. Name of applicant
 - c. Project contact
 - d. Target geographic location and/or population affected by the project
 - e. Total project cost and total amount requested from EPA
 - f. Statement as to whether this project addresses (a) an area of high incidence of elevated blood-lead or (b) an area of suspected but undocumented elevated blood-lead levels
 - g. One or two sentence overview of your proposal describing the types of activities to be undertaken and how this project will identify and/or reduce elevated blood lead levels.

2. Narrative addressing each evaluation criterion separately and in the order shown in Unit V. Applicants must describe how this project will meet each criterion.

Under Criterion 2, applicants must submit information demonstrating their programmatic capability to perform the project. If available, applicants should submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements that your organization performed within the last two years, and describe how you documented and/or reported on whether you were making progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements. If you were not making progress, please indicate whether, and how, you documented why not. In evaluating applicants under this factor in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available environmental results past performance information, please indicate this in the proposal

and you will receive a neutral score for this factor under Section V.

Also under Criterion 2, applicants should submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last two years, and describe (i) whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements and (ii) your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including submitting acceptable final technical reports. In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for these factors under Section V.

In addition, provide information on your organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, your staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.

Under Criterion 3, applicants must submit a plan for tracking and measuring their progress toward achieving the program goals identified in Unit I of the announcement. There are questions under Criteria 2, 4 and 6 that address the project budget. These questions should be answered both in narrative form in order of the criteria listed below and supplemented by a 1 page detailed budget attachment (not included in narrative page limit) which provides further information for each object class category and information on matching funds, if any.

3. Attachments must include letters of specific commitment, if any, from partners, and draft Budget Forms 424-A and 424-B (these must be finalized if your project is selected for funding).

C. Application Instructions

Applicants are encouraged to apply online using the Grants.gov website with an electronic signature. Please use only one method. Alternatively, applicants may apply via mail or fax.

1. Instructions for Fax Submissions

Proposals must be faxed to the appropriate EPA Regional Lead Contact listed in Unit VII.

2. Instructions for Mail Submissions

Proposals must be mailed to the appropriate EPA Regional Lead Contact listed in Unit VII. Submit one original and one copy of the grant proposal, and include a return mailing address. Grant proposals should be unbound, stapled or clipped in the upper lefthand corner, and on white paper.

3. Instructions for Submissions using Grants.gov

Please be sure to view the additional instructions that are available for download on Grants.gov. If you have technical difficulties while applying electronically,

please refer to <http://www.Grants.gov/CustomerSupport> or call the toll free Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726.

If you wish to apply electronically via Grants.gov, the electronic submission of your proposal/ application must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. For more information, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Get Registered” on the left side of the page. *Note that the registration process may take a week or longer to complete.* If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office to designate an AOR and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible.

To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Apply for Grants” tab on the left side of the page. Then click on “Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Instructions” to download the PureEdge viewer and obtain the application package and instructions for applying under this announcement using grants.gov. You may retrieve the application package and instructions by entering the Funding Opportunity Number, EPA-06-19, or the CFDA number (CFDA 66.716), in the space provided. Then complete and submit the application package as indicated. You may also be able to access the application package by clicking on the button “How To Apply” at the top right of the synopsis page for this announcement on <http://www.grants.gov> (to find the synopsis page, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Find Grant Opportunities” button on the left side of the page and then go to Search Opportunities and use the Browse by Agency feature to go to EPA opportunities).

Application/proposal materials submitted through grants.gov will be time/date stamped electronically.

Please be sure to view the additional instructions for applying electronically under this announcement through use of grants.gov that are available for download on Grants.gov.

If you have any technical difficulties while applying electronically, please refer to <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp>.

D. Intergovernmental Review

Applicants should be aware that formal requests for assistance (i.e., SF424 and associated documentation) may be subject to intergovernmental review under Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." Applicants should contact their state's single point of contact (SPOC) for further information. There is a list of these contacts at the following web site: <http://whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html>.

E. Confidential Business Information

In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their application/proposal as confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidentiality claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark applications/proposals or portions of applications/proposals they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c)(2) prior to disclosure.

F. Pre-proposal/Application Communications and Assistance

In accordance with EPA's Competition Policy of January 11, 2005 (EPA Order 5700.5A1), EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss draft proposals, provide informal comments on draft proposals, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to ranking criteria. Applicants are responsible for the contents of their applications.

G. Other Submission Requirements

If the applicant has conducted, or is currently working on a related project(s), a brief description of those projects, funding sources, primary commitments, and an indication as to whether those commitments were met must be included in the grant proposal. The description must also indicate how the proposed project is different from other work conducted by the applicant(s). However, EPA is interested in knowing the extent to which these grants build upon or support previous or other on-going projects, particularly those funded by EPA or other Federal Agency grant programs.

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. Review and Selection Process

Award decisions will be made on the basis of the 5-page initial package.

Initial reviews will be done by EPA Regional Offices, against the criteria listed below. This review will include consideration of the Regional priorities, if any, identified under Criterion 7. Each proposal will be given a numerical score, with a total of 100 points possible except for Regions which have identified priorities listed under Criterion 7 (these Regions will have a total of 115 points possible), and rank ordered according to this numerical score.

Assuming qualified proposals are received, each Regional Office will submit up to a set number (expected to be three, but may change depending on number of submissions) of their highest ranking proposals to EPA Headquarters, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT-HQ). This group of highest-ranked Regional proposals will be reviewed, by a selection committee consisting of staff from the Regional offices and OPPT-HQ, to determine the highest ranked proposals nationally. Regional priorities identified under Criterion 7 will not be a factor in the

national review process. The selection committee will develop funding recommendations based on the rankings and the following factors: programmatic priorities, distribution across geographic locations, distribution across populations addressed, and range of project size.

Entities that submit proposals eligible for funding will be notified by EPA of their selection and will be required to submit official grant applications as a part of the award process. Upon notice of award, successful applicants will be given 1 month to submit an official grant application as part of the award process prior to receipt of funds. Materials needed for the official grant application, as well as further information on individual applications, may be obtained through the appropriate EPA Regional Lead Contact listed in Unit VII.

B. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be screened against the threshold criteria listed in section III. Only those applications that meet the threshold criteria will be evaluated against the criteria below.

EPA will review all proposals for quality, strength, and completeness. All proposals will be judged against the first six criteria listed below. In addition, several Regions have identified a seventh criterion which is applicable only to proposals submitted in that Region; this is explained below in further detail. Applicants should directly and explicitly address these criteria as part of their proposal.

Criterion 1: Severity of Risk and Need for Project (20 points)

Proposals must address areas and/or populations with high documented levels of childhood lead poisoning, or identify and address areas where there is great potential for elevated blood lead levels to exist. Applicants will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which the proposal documents the seriousness, extent, and urgency of documented or suspected childhood lead poisoning in the target area or population, and how the proposed project will fill a critical need to reduce this incidence or suspected incidence.

For projects which address a community, population or area with a documented significantly higher than average incidence rate of childhood lead poisoning, please address the following questions:

- What are the statistics illustrating that the target community, population or area has significantly higher than average incidence of childhood lead poisoning? Please include relevant blood-lead monitoring data.
- What other characteristics of the target areas/populations indicate that the need is critical? Please include demographic information for the target community and other critical indicators including poverty rate, unemployment rate, special community characteristics (e.g., population density, size, cultural/linguistic realities, or any other relevant characteristics), or other factors that support the need for this project (e.g., low-income population, concentration of children, communities disproportionately impacted by environmental factors). Identify sources of information used to illustrate current conditions.
- What critical needs are currently unfilled, resulting in increased incidence of childhood

lead poisoning in the target community/area?

- How will your proposed project fit those needs and lower the incidence and severity of elevated blood-lead levels in children?

For projects that address a community, population or area with a high likelihood, but insufficient documentation, of higher than average incidence rates of childhood lead poisoning, please address the following questions:

- Why do you believe that this target area has a high likelihood of higher than average incidence of childhood lead poisoning? Please share all information that you have available to understand the conditions in the target area (e.g., housing age and quality, low-income population, concentration of children, cultural/linguistic realities, communities disproportionately impacted by environmental factors).

- Why is it important to better identify the remaining vulnerable populations at risk in this target community, population or area, rather than focus on methods to prevent lead poisoning?

- What critical needs are currently unfilled, resulting in lack of data and likely increased incidence of childhood lead poisoning in the target community/area?

- How will your project fit those needs and better identify the extent and location of childhood lead poisoning (and lower the incidence and severity of elevated blood-lead levels, if your project includes this step)?

Criterion 2: Project Effectiveness and Applicant Overview (20 points)

Proposals will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates that the project has a high likelihood for success and that the applicant has the programmatic and organizational capability to successfully carry out the proposed project. Please include sufficient detail to demonstrate whether the project approach is reasonable, the use of resources is sound, and that the applicant is organized and qualified to implement this project.

Programmatic Capability: Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project taking into account the following factors: (i) its past performance in successfully completing and managing federally funded assistance agreements similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 2 years, (ii) its history of meeting reporting requirements under federally funded assistance agreements similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 2 years and submitting acceptable final reports under those agreements, (iii) its organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and (iv) its staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.

Environmental Results Past Performance Criterion: Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they adequately documented and/or reported on their progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outcomes and outputs) under Federal agency assistance agreements performed within the last two years, and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately documented and/or reported why not.

All project proposals must address the following questions:

- What are the specific goals and objectives for the project (describe in measurable terms the environmental or human health issue to be addressed)?
- What is your approach, and what tasks and steps will you undertake to accomplish these goals? Please include a timeline or schedule.
- How will the requested funds be used to accomplish these goals?
- How does the project fit into an overall strategic plan to address lead poisoning?
- What knowledge, experience, and organizational infrastructure and staffing do you or your partners possess that will enable you to successfully complete this project?
- How will this project develop and encourage the use of innovative techniques, tools, or measures which can identify vulnerable populations at risk and/or measure improvements in environmental and human health (e.g., surrogates for blood lead testing)?

Note: In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance reporting history will receive a neutral score for these sub-factors.

Criterion 3: Measurable Results and Evaluation (20 Points)

Proposals will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates that the applicant will be able to clearly track and measure progress toward achieving the expected program goals (including outputs and outcomes) identified in Unit I. EPA prefers that progress be shown in real environmental progress rather than solely in amount of work accomplished. Please describe the extent to which the proposal measures both quantitative and qualitative results. All project proposals must address the following questions:

- What are the specific project deliverables?
- What are the specific and measurable short term outcomes and results that will be achieved? Please describe specific measures that are based on outputs (e.g., number of brochures/surveys distributed), behavior changes (e.g., increase in number of children screened for elevated blood lead levels, implementing lead-safe techniques), and/or environmental and human health results (e.g., decrease in elevated blood lead levels, decrease in dust lead levels, identification of actual elevated blood lead levels in target area).
- How will you measure and evaluate these results, both during the project and after the project is completed?
- How will needed changes to the project be identified and incorporated on an ongoing basis?
- How will you demonstrate if your project goals were met and identify lessons learned?
- How will you ensure that the data and information collected are useable, accessible to the public, and are shared with appropriate stakeholders?

Criterion 4: Effective Partnerships and Leveraging Resources (20 points)

Proposals will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which they demonstrate that the applicants have developed appropriate and committed partnerships and have successfully leveraged resources. Please describe the extent to which the applicant will be partnering with

local stakeholders (e.g., HUD, CDC grantees, other EPA grantees, other Federal agencies, local community groups, health professionals) and the expected results of the partnership. Letters of commitment will be reviewed as part of the evaluation process. These should include clear statements from all project partners on what specific actions they will take to support this project.

Applicants may use their own funds or other resources for a voluntary match or cost share if the standards at 40 CFR 30.23 or 40 CFR 31.24, as applicable, are met. Only eligible and allowable costs may be used for matches or cost shares. Other Federal grants may not be used as matches or cost shares without specific statutory authority (e.g. HUD's Community Development Block Grants).

All project proposals must answer the following questions:

- How do your partners represent those in the target community/area who have an interest in, have knowledge or experience with, or will be affected by the project?
- What funding and other resources are already in place to implement the goals of the proposed project?
- What additional resources (e.g., specific funding, staff time, in-kind resources) will be leveraged for this project, either via specific in-place commitments from partners or via other means?

Criterion 5: Community Involvement (10 points)

Proposals will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates that the applicant will include appropriate and effective community involvement which enhances the prospects for overall project success. Please describe the extent to which the target community (e.g., area, neighborhood, population) will be involved in the project. Please describe any specific opportunities to empower the area/population to address the project goals and objectives. All project proposals must address the following questions:

- What key sectors of the community have or will be engaged in planning and implementing this project?
- How do participants represent those in the target community/area who have an interest in or will be affected by the project?
- What methods will be used for community involvement to ensure that all affected by the project will have the opportunity to participate?

Criterion 6: Sustainability & Replicability (10 points)

Proposals will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which they demonstrate that the projects can be sustained after the project period, and can be replicated in other areas. Please describe what efforts will be made to continue project work beyond the length of the grant period. All project proposals must answer the following questions:

- After funds from EPA are exhausted, will any part of the work continue? What will be done to increase the likelihood of further work in the proposed target community/area?
- What types of areas or populations across the country could benefit from the proposed approach?

- How could this project, in whole or in part, be replicated or serve as a model in other communities?
- What outputs of this project could serve to reduce development, start-up, and/or research costs for other areas or populations?
- How will you share methodology, tools, and other information with appropriate stakeholders?

Criterion 7: Regional Priorities (Applies only to applicants submitting proposals to EPA Regions 1, 5, 8, and 9. Maximum additional award of 15 points in first-round review only.) Several EPA Regions have particular priority areas. While these priority areas are usually aspects of the lead program that have national relevance as well, they may be particularly responsive to circumstances in a particular Region. Proposals will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it responds to the following Regional priority areas. Please address only the priority area that corresponds to the Region in which you will be applying. If there is no priority area identified, do not address this criterion. Your proposal will not be penalized if there is no Regional priority identified; this criteria will be used only to rank proposals at the Regional level but not across Regions.

Region 1: Because of the prevalence of childhood lead poisoning in Region 1, proposals will be awarded points based on the how well the project involves, benefits, and provides direct service to actual or suspected geographic hot spots for childhood lead poisoning in New England communities including environmental justice areas of potential concern. For the purposes of this criteria “hot spots” means a defined geographic area(s) which contain a high concentration of lead poisoned children and/or vulnerable populations at risk for childhood lead poisoning. For the purposes of this criteria, “environmental justice areas of potential concern” mean communities, neighborhoods, and/or tribes that face a disproportionate and/or concentrated amount of environmental and/or public burdens in a defined geographic area. This includes, but is not limited to, the lowest income, most diverse populations in New England. Region 1 will award up to 10 bonus points for applications that clearly address actual or suspected geographic “hot spots” and up to 5 bonus points for applications that clearly involve and benefit an environmental justice area of potential concern.

Region 5: Because of the severity of documented childhood lead poisoning in Region 5, proposals will be awarded points based on how well it addresses specific areas of high risk. Region 5 priority areas are therefore (A) targeting cities with the greatest numbers of lead-poisoned children, (B) developing and/or strengthening sustainable local partnerships which build capacity to address childhood lead poisoning, and (C) promoting the use of lead-safe work practices among homeowners and renovation workers to prevent childhood lead poisoning. Points will first be awarded to any project that targets any city that is included on the CDC’s (2003 CBLS) listing of the top 25 cities for confirmed EBLs in each of its six states (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI) (Note: this list is available from U.S. EPA Region 5, contact the Regional Lead Contact as listed in Unit VII.). Up to 5 bonus points will be awarded as follows; rank #1-5 on the CDC list for that state = 5 points, rank #6-10 = 4 points, rank #11-15 = 3 points, rank #16-20 = 2 points, and rank #21-25 = 1 point. If this targeted project will then also establish or

strengthen sustainable partnerships in this city to address the problem of childhood lead poisoning, it will be awarded up to an additional 5 points, depending upon the degree to which this is demonstrated. Further, if the targeted project will promote a greater use of lead-safe work practices among homeowners and/or renovation workers in this city, it will then be awarded up to an additional 5 points, depending upon the degree to which this is demonstrated. In this manner, by allocating a range of 1 – 15 bonus points, Region 5 hopes to encourage project proposals that will specifically address its priority needs and concerns.

Region 8: Rural areas. Because of the relative lack of progress in addressing childhood lead poisoning in rural areas in Region 8, proposals will be awarded points based on how well the project demonstrates a focus on rural areas, and results in increased knowledge, infrastructure, and resources in rural areas.

Region 9: Sustainability at the local level. Because of the breadth of the Region and the local nature of the childhood lead poisoning problem in Region 9, proposals will be awarded points based on how well the project will be institutionalized, particularly at the local level, so that the activities will continue after the current grant expires.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

Once proposals have been reviewed and evaluated, the contact person for the applicant (as identified in the proposal) will receive notification from EPA regarding the outcome of the competition. If proposals are selected, additional forms for grant application (such as Standard Form SF 424, Application for Federal Assistance) will be required to be submitted to EPA. The specific information will be provided by EPA. In addition, successful applicants will be required to certify that they have not been debarred or suspended from participation in Federal assistance awards in accordance with 40 CFR part 32. The application forms are available on line at <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/application.htm>. These forms should not be submitted with the proposals.

Note: EPA reserves the right to negotiate appropriate changes in work plans after the selection and before the final award consistent with EPA's Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1, Section 11). The notification, which advises that the applicant's proposal has tentatively been selected and is being recommended for award, is not an authorization to begin performance. The award notice is the authorizing document.

B. Administration and National Policy Requirements

EPA's quality assurance requirements must be complied with before any environmental or health-related measurements or data are initiated under this grant. These requirements are addressed in 40 CFR 30.54 and 31.45 relating to quality assurance/quality control. Information on EPA quality assurance requirements may be downloaded from the EPA Quality System web

site at <http://www.epa.gov/quality/>. For further guidance on preparation of the quality documentation, and specific EPA Regional approval requirements, please contact the appropriate EPA Regional Lead Contact listed in Unit VII.

Presently, these funds are not eligible for use in a Performance Partnership Agreement.

C. Reporting Requirements

The grantee must provide EPA with written progress reports within 30 days after the end of each quarter and a report within 90 days after the end of the project period.

D. Disputes

Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005) which can be found at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-1371.htm>. Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting the Regional Lead Contact listed in Unit VII.

E. Nonprofit Administrative Capability Clause

Nonprofit applicants that are recommended for funding will be subject to pre-award administrative capability reviews consistent with Sections 8.b, 8.c, and 9.d of EPA Order 5700.8.

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS

For specific information regarding your geographic area or application, contact the appropriate EPA Regional Lead Contact. Grant proposals must be submitted by mail or fax to the appropriate EPA Regional Lead Contact, or to Grants.gov. The EPA Regional Lead Contacts are listed as follows:

Region 1 (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont): Regional Contact: James M. Bryson, USEPA Region 1 (CPT), One Congress St., Suite 1100, Boston, MA 02114-0203; telephone number: (617) 918-1524; fax number: (617) 918-0524; e-mail address: bryson.jamesm@epa.gov.

Region 2 (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands): Regional Contact: Lou Bevilacqua, USEPA Region 2 (MS 225), 2890 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, NJ 08837; telephone number: (732) 321-6671; fax number: (732) 321-6757; e-mail address: bevilacqua.louis@epa.gov.

Region 3 (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, the District of Columbia): Regional Contact: Demian Ellis, USEPA Region 3 (3WC33), 1650 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029; telephone number: (215) 814-2088; fax number: (215) 814-3114; e-mail address: ellis.demian@epa.gov.

Region 4 (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South

Carolina, and Tennessee): Regional Contact: Liz Wilde, USEPA Region 4, 61 Forsyth St., SW., Atlanta, GA 30303; telephone number: (404) 562-8998; fax numbers: (404) 562-8973 and (404) 562-8972; e-mail address: *wilde.liz@epa.gov*.

Region 5 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin): Regional Contact: David Turpin, USEPA Region 5 (DT 8J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604; telephone number: (312) 886-7836; fax number: (312) 353-4788; e-mail address: *turpin.david@epa.gov*.

Region 6 (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas): Regional Contact: Estella Sugawara-Adams, USEPA Region 6, 1445 Ross Ave., 12th Floor (6PD-T), Dallas, TX 75202; telephone number: (214) 665-2704; fax number: (214) 665-6762; e-mail address: *sugawara-adams.estella@epa.gov*.

Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska): Regional Contact: Christine Dustin, USEPA Region 7, ARTD/RALI, 901 North 5th, Kansas City, KS 66101; telephone number: (913) 551-7102; e-mail address: *dustin.christine@epa.gov*.

Region 8 (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming): Regional Contact: Randy Brown, USEPA Region 8, 999 18th St., Suite 300, Denver, CO 80202; telephone number: (303) 312-6021; fax number (303) 312-6044; e-mail address: *brown03.randy@epa.gov*.

Region 9 (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam): Regional Contact: David Tomsovic, USEPA Region 9 (CMD 4), 75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105, telephone number: (415) 972-3858; fax number: (415) 947-3583; e-mail address: *tomsovic.david@epa.gov*.

Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington): Regional Contact: Barbara Ross, USEPA Region 10, Solid Waste and Toxics Unit (AWT 128), 1200 Sixth Ave., Seattle, WA 98101, telephone number: (206) 553-1985; fax number: (206) 553-8509; e-mail address: *ross.barbara@epa.gov*.

VIII. Other Information

A. Docket

EPA has established an official public docket for this action under docket identification (ID) number OPPT-2006-0533. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the EPA Docket Center, Rm. B-102 Reading Room, EPA West, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal Federal holidays. The EPA Docket Center Reading Room telephone number is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the OPPT Docket, which is located in EPA Docket Center, is (202) 566-0280.