

**Request for Qualifications (RFQ)  
For Research Teams to Conduct  
Systems of Health Care and Prevention Financing, Delivery, and Policy Research**

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA HIV/AIDS RESEARCH PROGRAM

Qualifications Receipt Due Date: **Tuesday, March 18, 2008**  
Anticipated Award Period: **May 1, 2008 – December 2008**

The California HIV/AIDS Research Program (CHRP) is sponsoring an open Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to select investigative teams with expertise and capacity to conduct independent research in two areas.

1) Research on the potential impact of the ‘Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006’, (Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program) as well as of proposals for reauthorization of that Act; in order to enhance understanding of the needs and possible alternatives for the effective delivery of health care services to uninsured, underinsured and low-income HIV-infected populations in California.

2) Research on the impact of condom distribution policies in prison or jail settings on HIV risk among incarcerated individuals, management of jail and prison settings, and other potential impacts.

It is anticipated that a total of up to \$250,000 in CHRP funding will be allocated under this RFQ.

This RFQ describes the areas of expertise and the information required from the responding investigative teams to be considered for selection to provide needed time-sensitive research. The purposes of the research to be sponsored are:

**Part A: Analysis of Impact of Changes in Funding Requirements on Access to and Provision of HIV/AIDS Services:**

- To examine and model the impact of possible changes in funding requirements and levels of HIV/AIDS services on access to and provision of services for persons with HIV/AIDS in California. The proposed Scope of Work under the research funded may include an examination of the implications of:
  - possible changes in funding formulas under the Ryan White Program;
  - requirements that Ryan White Program grantees use no less than 75 percent of funds to provide core medical services;
  - proposed State of California Health Care Reform efforts and/or changes or reductions in state funding for public programs on federal funding for HIV/AIDS care services in California.

It is anticipated that one or two research teams from different California institutions may be funded under this part of the RFQ, with a possible funding level of up to \$250,000 in the current fiscal year. If more than one research team is chosen, teams will be asked to work in a collaborative manner in addressing the issues, under a collaborative scope of work to be developed in conjunction with CHRP staff and program advisors.

**Part B: Analysis of Impact of Condom Distribution Policies in Prison or Jail Settings on Transmission, Risk Behaviors and Services for Persons with HIV:**

- To examine and analyze the impact of condom distribution policies in prison or jail settings, through:
  - An analysis of condom distribution and transmission and risk behaviors among incarcerated populations utilizing already collected data or through the rapid collection of new primary data;

- To model the impact of condom distribution programs on costs of providing care to incarcerated populations.
- Potential other impacts of condom distribution programs in prisons and jails on overall jail management and safety.

It is anticipated that one research team from a California institution may be funded under this part of the RFQ, with a possible funding level of up to \$250,000 in the current fiscal year.

Completed responses to this RFQ are due by **Tuesday, March 18, 2008. CHRP has allocated a total of \$250,000 and intends to select one to three investigative teams sufficient to meet its research objectives.** Should only one applicant be deemed qualified they may receive up to up to \$250,000 in the current fiscal year to address one or both of these policy areas.

In the event that additional funds are secured for this RFQ from other sources, CHRP may select additional teams in either of the listed topic areas and/or may provide additional funding to the team(s) selected, in one or both topic areas. It is anticipated that the funds available will be allocated to one or more of the above topic areas. The exact scope and budgets of research work to be conducted will be negotiated with selected investigators pursuant to the Task Order Award process described below.

Selection of investigators and institutions to participate in this California Systems of Health Care and Prevention Policy research program will be based on available funds and an assessment of the prospective team's experience, demonstrated capabilities, and capacity to complete the research within the anticipated eight month project period.

## **I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Part A: Analysis of Impact of Changes in Funding Requirements on Access to and Provision of HIV/AIDS Services:**

The Ryan White CARE Act, now called "Title XXVI of the PHS Act as amended by the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006", or "Ryan White Program" is the single largest federal program designed specifically for people with HIV/AIDS. First enacted in 1990, it provides care and support services to individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS and is intended to fill the gaps in care for those who have no other source of coverage or face coverage limits. Federal Ryan White funding is provided to cities, states, and directly to providers and other organizations. The program was reauthorized in 1996, 2000, and December 2006. The most recent authorization extends for three years. The recent reauthorization of the Ryan White Program made significant changes to the federal legislation, including setting minimum funding requirements for core medical services, creating new structures for funding, and changing the formula used to distribute funds through some Parts of the Act (Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org))

The current Act includes a sunset provision ending the current program on September 30, 2009. It is anticipated that proposals to continue or provide alternatives to the Program will be introduced in the United States Congress prior to the sunset date. It is also anticipated that future proposals may take state health care program revisions or expansions (often referred to as 'health care reform') into account in setting federal funding levels under the Ryan White Program. (Source: CHRP Health Systems Input Meeting October 2007) In addition, proposed changes to California's State Medicaid program (known in California as Medi-Cal) could have an impact on access to services and available state and federal funding for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

This RFQ is intended to seek applications to examine and model the impact of changes in funding formulas under the Ryan White Program on services for persons with HIV/AIDS in California; to examine and model the impact of requirements under the Program that Grantees under Titles I, II, and III use no less than 75 percent of funds to provide core medical services; as well as to examine and model the possible impact of proposed State

of California Health Care Reform efforts and/or possible changes in Medi-Cal funding programs on access to services and future federal funding for HIV/AIDS care services under the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

## **Part B: Analysis of Impact of Condom Distribution Policies in Prison or Jail Settings on Transmission and Risk Behaviors:**

HIV infection and risk behaviors are high among populations who are at-risk for incarceration, currently incarcerated, or recently discharged from incarceration. The HIV rate in California's state prison system has been estimated to be nearly eight times that of the general population, with unprotected sex between inmates serving as a primary route of transmission. (Source: San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 2006). This high rate of HIV infections in prisons in turn results in increased rates of HIV infection in the community once infected inmates are released, and can lead to increases in public costs under the Medicaid and ADAP programs for medical care for inmates, former inmates and their partners. (Source: Scott, University of Houston Law Journal, May 2006).

Nonetheless, possession and distribution of condoms is not permitted in State Prisons in California and is allowed in only a few pilot programs in California county jails. In October 2007 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed AB 1334 (Swanson-D, Oakland), which would have permitted non-profit HIV prevention groups to distribute condoms in state prisons. In his veto message, the Governor noted that the provisions of the bill conflict with California Penal Code Sections which make sexual activity in prison unlawful, but also stated that condom distribution in prisons is consistent with the need to improve the prison healthcare system and overall public health, and indicated that he would direct the Department of Corrections to develop a pilot program in one state prison to test the viability of condom distribution. (Source: Governor's Veto Message, AB 1334; October 14, 2007).

This RFQ is intended to seek applications to examine and analyze the impact of condom distribution policies in a prison or jail settings on transmission and sexual behavior, as well as to model the impact of condom distribution programs on costs of providing care to incarcerated populations, in order to inform decisions concerning restrictions on access to condoms in incarceration settings in California.

## **I. THE CALIFORNIA HIV/AIDS RESEARCH PROGRAM**

The California HIV/AIDS Research Program (CHRP) was created by the state legislature in 1983 in recognition of the need for California to take action in response to the AIDS crisis. The CHRP provides funding for the support of California-specific AIDS-related research to be conducted at nonprofit research institutions throughout California.

*The mission of CHRP is to fund innovative basic, clinical, social, behavioral, and policy research, and provides scientific leadership by convening California stakeholders from diverse backgrounds with expertise in ending the human suffering caused by HIV disease.*

The program and its Advisory Committee, the California HIV/AIDS Research Advisory Council, articulated and adopted six strategic goals to focus the program's strategies over the next five years. CHRP's goals as part of this strategic planning process include providing resources to address strategic HIV/AIDS research priorities critical to California and to promote the application and real-world impact of California-supported HIV/AIDS research, particularly within the communities disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS.

At a meeting held on Oct. 24, 2007 in Oakland, California in order to gather input on research priorities in the area of health systems of care and prevention, including policy research, stakeholders indicated that research related to funding formulas under the Ryan White Program and its impact on services in California, as well as research on services to incarcerated populations, were priority research areas. This request for qualifications is designed to provide a flexible and rapid mechanism for meeting newly arising research issues of particular

relevance to California. It is within this context and role as the agency charged with meeting the HIV/AIDS research challenges of the state that the CHRP is sponsoring this specific research initiative.

### III. ELIGIBILITY

#### Part A:

- Qualifications may be submitted by non-profit organizations such as universities, colleges, hospitals, laboratories, state and local government units, and community-based organizations in the State of California with an established research capacity.
- Qualifications must identify a principal investigator and at least one co-principal investigator, and they must represent at **least two different areas** of expertise relevant to the research to be sponsored under this initiative (the list of areas is provided in the next section, below).
- The principal investigator must qualify, at the time of submission of qualifications, for that status under the research institution's policies. The principal investigator must be prepared to commit **at least 5%** of effort to the sponsored research.
- The research team members must agree to join a collaborative consortium with any other funded research teams under Part A of this initiative, and to work jointly on a specific scope of work to be developed by the CHRP Program.

#### Part B:

- Qualifications may be submitted by non-profit organizations such as universities, colleges, hospitals, laboratories, state and local government units, and community-based organizations in the State of California with an established research capacity. Qualifications must identify a principal investigator.
- Qualifications must identify a principal investigator and at least one co-principal investigator, and they must represent at **least two different areas** of expertise relevant to the research to be sponsored under this initiative (the list of areas if provided in the next section, below).
- The principal investigator must qualify, at the time of submission of qualifications, for that status under the research institution's policies. The principal investigator must be prepared to commit **at least 5%** of effort to the sponsored research, and to pursuant to a specific scope of work to be developed by the CHRP Program.

### IV. RFQ SPECIFIC INFORMATION

#### Part A: Analysis of Impact of Changes in Funding Requirements

##### Areas of Expertise:

The areas of expertise sought are listed below. A team must demonstrate and submit qualifications covering **at least two areas of expertise**:

1. HIV/AIDS health policy – modeling and analyses of the impact of governmental and program policy approaches to the delivery of HIV/AIDS health care and prevention services.
2. Health services – evaluation of systems of HIV/AIDS health care and provider and patient behavior.
3. Health care financing and economics – modeling and analyses of cost effectiveness of alternate systems of HIV/AIDS health care financing and delivery.

4. HIV/AIDS public and governmental affairs – community-based experience in the development and implementation of HIV/AIDS public policy initiatives.
5. HIV/AIDS Epidemiology – analyses of HIV/AIDS surveillance and reporting systems.
6. HIV/AIDS Prevention – analysis and evaluation of interventions, policies and programs and their impact on individual and group behavior and risk.

## **Part B: Condoms in Incarceration Settings**

### **Areas of Expertise:**

The areas of expertise sought are listed below. A Principal Investigator must demonstrate and submit qualifications covering *at least two areas of expertise in:*

1. HIV/AIDS health policy – modeling and analyses of the impact of governmental and program policy approaches to the delivery of HIV/AIDS health care and prevention services.
2. Health care financing and economics – modeling and analyses of cost effectiveness of alternate systems of HIV/AIDS health care financing and delivery.
3. HIV/AIDS public and governmental affairs – community-based experience in the development and implementation of HIV/AIDS public policy initiatives.
4. HIV/AIDS Prevention – analysis and evaluation of interventions, policies and programs and their impact on individual and group behavior and risk.

## **PARTS A AND B:**

**Demonstrated Experience relevant to HIV/AIDS:** For both Parts, CHRP seeks research teams with demonstrated experience in the listed areas relevant to HIV/AIDS. This experience can be achieved as a team of investigators at an individual organization or through association among various institutions to comprise a research team.

**Capacity:** In addition to the specific areas of expertise being solicited, research teams must demonstrate the existing capacity to complete the research during the anticipated eight month project period by the following:

1. Currently existing personnel and material resources available to be committed to this effort.
2. Access to relevant databases to conduct the work and/or necessary data collection capacity within the limited timeframes of this award.
3. For Part A: Demonstrated capacity and record of working in collaboration with the State Office of AIDS, California Department of Public Health, California Health and Human Services Agency, the US Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and/or other public agencies in research involving publicly funded HIV/AIDS programs.
4. For Part B: Demonstrated capacity and record of working in collaboration with the State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, State Office of AIDS, county jail facilities, and/or other public agencies in research involving incarcerated populations.

**Description of Task Order Award:** The research to be conducted will be funded through a task order award that contains a general scope of work, maximum award amount, and award termination date. Specific research tasks to be executed under the award and allocation of personnel effort to the specific research task will be negotiated prior to actual execution. This type of award permits rapid response to critical issues and obviates the need for separate RFP and selection processes for each research study and task. It is anticipated that task order awards will be executed by early May 2008 and that all work under each award must be completed within eight

months of the effective date of the award. Investigators will be expected to seek and obtain any appropriate IRB approvals and other assurances and/or exemptions before beginning the covered research under the Task Order Award.

Research Teams selected for funding under this RFQ will be required to attend a meeting with CHRP staff and Program Advisors to discuss the scope of work of the Task Order Awards. This meeting is currently scheduled to be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at a location to be determined in California. Research Teams will also be required to form a consortium and to attend regular meetings with CHRP staff and advisors as requested and to participate in CHRP sponsored dissemination efforts.

### **Evaluation Criteria:**

The CHRP will convene a peer review panel or panels to evaluate qualification proposals based on the following criteria:

1. Experience of the investigative team with research and project types under the areas of expertise identified in the application in response to the Part of the RFQ to which the application refers. Specific experience with analyses of and access to relevant databases.
2. Availability of team members and the ability to commit personnel, time, and other resources to the project(s).
3. Demonstrated understanding of the scope of the research to be provided, including a description of potential research questions, research design and appropriate methodologies to address those questions, and identification of which types of work are to be performed by a subcontractor, if any.
4. Demonstrated understanding of applicable rules, regulations, policies, and other requirements associated with the applicable Programs to be studied and other pertinent state and federal programs.
5. Ability to meet CHRP scheduling requirements and to complete the research within the stated timelines.
6. Past performance of the investigators, specific staff, and sub-awardees that demonstrate capability to successfully complete similar projects.
7. The extent to which the proposal is responsive to the intent of the RFQ.

## **V. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

### **Application Format, Deadline and Contact Person**

All applications must be submitted online through proposalCENTRAL by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Tuesday, March 18, 2008.

The application process will be operational at proposalCENTRAL <https://proposalcentral.altum.com> on Friday, February 8, 2008.

The statement of qualifications must be prepared in accordance with the instructions in the RFQ.

Institutions and investigative teams interested in being considered must provide the requested information online, on the Application forms.

**Complete applications, with the exception of the signed face page, are due online at proposalCENTRAL <https://proposalcentral.altum.com> by 5:00 pm, Pacific Time (8:00 p.m. Eastern) on Tuesday, March 18, 2008. Note that all times on the proposalCENTRAL web site are in U.S. Eastern Time. The deadline for online application submission is firm.**

Note: Due times at proposalCENTRAL are set to official U.S. time. Computers and telephones often do not display the correct time. Official U.S. time can easily be viewed at:

<http://www.time.gov/timezone.cgi?Pacific/d/-8/java>

- A complete online application includes entry of all required elements and uploads of all required items in PDF format at proposalCENTRAL
- Do not submit hard copies of your application, with the exception of the Face Page (see below).
- Applications submitted only by email or submitted by fax will not be considered.
- Late, incomplete or unsigned qualifications will not be reviewed.

**In addition to the online application, please note that the completed, hard copy of signed Face Page with original signatures must be sent directly to CHRP and must be received by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Tuesday, March 25, 2008. No in-person delivery is permitted. Do not submit other parts of the application with the face page.**

The California HIV/AIDS Research Program  
Health Policy RFQ  
Attn: Susan Carter  
300 Lakeside Drive, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, California 94612  
(510) 987-9855

The Program Officer for the RFQ is Susan Carter, CHRP, [Susan.Carter@ucop.edu](mailto:Susan.Carter@ucop.edu), (510) 987-0720.

All applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the CHRP program officer before submitting an application with any questions regarding this RFQ or their application.

**Applications without required signatures, with missing sections, which do not meet eligibility requirements, or which do not adhere to these instructions, including required formats (font size, margin size and page lengths) are subject to administrative rejection by CHRP without peer review.**

**Request for Qualifications (RFQ) For Research Teams to Conduct California  
Health Care and Prevention Financing, Delivery, and Policy Research**

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA HIV/AIDS RESEARCH PROGRAM

**Application Guidelines/Instructions**

**I      ONLINE APPLICATION SYSTEM**

**All grant applications must be submitted online through proposalCENTRAL at:  
<https://proposalcentral.altum.com>**

Applicants and their collaborating investigators need to register now at proposalCENTRAL and complete a professional profile. Applicants also should make sure that their organization has registered an institution profile with proposalCENTRAL, including a valid, federal tax identification number. **You will not be able to submit your application if there is not a valid, federal tax identification number in the institution profile.** Please do not create additional, unnecessary institution profile entries. Tutorials are available at the login screen once you register.

To apply, follow the steps below.

1. Set up a user account for yourself on proposalCENTRAL. Go to:  
<https://proposalcentral.altum.com>

Register as an applicant, and fill out the registration information. Also, be sure that your grants officer has registered your institution. During the application process, you have the option of assigning colleagues the rights to modify your proposal. They should also register with proposalCENTRAL.

2. Fill out your Professional Profile. Select the Professional Profile tab and enter contact information, research interests, and demographic information. Do not use generic e-mail addresses (e.g. chrp@ucop.edu). Institution and Contact Information becomes part of the grant application, will be viewed by reviewers and by CHRP, and the data will be transferred to CHRP. Personal Data will not be part of the grant application, will not be viewed by reviewers or by CHRP, and the data will not be transferred to CHRP. Many Personal Data items are optional (SSN), and "Not Provided" is a valid entry for demographic information.

California HIV/AIDS Research Program      California Health Care and Prevention  
Financing, Delivery and Policy Research  
RFQ

3. Pick the Grant Opportunities tab and scroll to the bottom to find CHRP granting programs under “California HIV/AIDS Research Program”. Find the row for California Health Care and Prevention Financing, Delivery, and Policy Research Award and select “Apply Now” in the right hand column.
4. Complete the required sections of the application. Additional instructions and templates will be available during the application process. Download these to your computer. Follow the instructions provided online and on each template. Be sure to “Save” at each step. It is not necessary to complete the application in a single session.
5. Some parts of the application are entered directly onto the web pages. Other parts must be uploaded. All uploads must be PDF documents. Do not upload documents with password protection or electronic signatures.
6. When the application is complete, press “Validate”. The program will check your proposal for incomplete elements. This does not submit the application. When the application has been validated, select “Next”, and a PDF file of the application can be generated by selecting “Print Signature Pages and Attached PDF Files”. This will generate a PDF document containing the signature page (generated by the web site), the application contacts (generated by the web site), and all the PDF documents that were uploaded. This document will not contain the organizational assurance information, the budget summary, the lay abstract, or the demographics of research-subjects information. These items will have to be printed separately if a complete hard copy including these items is desired. The combined PDF can be saved by selecting “Save As” under the file menu of your browser. After selecting “Save As”, select “Save a Blank Copy” in the dialog box that will appear. This will not alter the document. To close the document during future use, select “Discard Data and Close Form”, which will appear in a dialog box. This will not alter the document.
7. When your application is validated, print the Face Page and the entire proposal for submission with the signature of the Principal Investigator. PLEASE note that contracts and grants officer signatures **are not** required at this stage of the grant application process.
8. “Submit” the online application. You will receive an e-mail confirmation of your submission.
9. After you have signed the Face Page as Principal Investigator, submit the page to CHRP as described under Submission and Deadlines.

**All uploaded files must be in PDF format.** For information on PDF conversion, see proposalCENTRAL FAQ and Help files. A list of web-based and software conversion utilities can be found at: <http://www.neh.gov/grants/grantsgov/pdf.html>

*Important: Do not upload any PDF documents with password protection or electronic signatures.*

Hard-copy items can be scanned to create an image file (e.g. gif, jpg) and then converted to PDF. Be sure that the scan is a high quality image.

**A proposalCENTRAL helpline is available for questions from applicants on weekdays from 5:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Pacific Time. Phone: 1-800-875-2562 ext 227 or email: [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com)**

## II      APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

**Application Contents:** A complete RFQ application consists of the following:

- A.      **Signature Pages** – proposalCENTRAL generates Signature pages from information supplied online after the application is validated (all required items and information uploaded or entered). Applicants are required to print the automatically generated page (please ignore any potential instructions from Adobe Acrobat to additionally fill out the form), to sign it and to mail the page with the original signature to CHRP, to the address provided in the RFQ text.
- B.      **Title Page**
- C.      **Download Templates and Instructions** – you will find the Application Forms and Instructions here
- C.      **Applicant/PI Information**
- D.      **Institution and Contacts**
- E.      **Key Personnel**

Section Explanations: The following numbered explanations correspond to the numbered Proposal Sections seen in the left hand column of the application page at the proposalCENTRAL web site. This page appears after selecting “Apply Now” or on future visits when “Edit” is selected. Sections 1, 4, 5, and 6 require online entry of information. Section 1 (Title Page) must be completed first. Section 3 allows you to designate others to have access to your application. Section 7 requires multiple uploads of PDF documents. All parts of the application can be edited before submission. After Section 1, the remaining sections listed above can be completed in any order, and do not need to be completed in one session. Section 2 provides the templates and additional instructions needed to complete Section 7 (the same files are also available within Section 7). The document you are now reading is always available from the application page by selecting “Program Guidelines” from the lower left of the page.

**1. Title Page (complete online):** The project title may not exceed 60 characters and may not include quotation marks.

If this project was previously submitted, choose “Yes” for resubmission and provide the year of prior submission. The grant award is limited to \$250,000, regardless of the project duration, plus indirect costs, where applicable. University of California institutions are not eligible for indirect costs. Non-UC institutions are eligible for indirect costs up to 25% of total direct costs. The maximum duration of the project is 8 months.

After entering the requested information, Save, and select “Next” to continue.

**2. Templates and Additional Instructions.** These are necessary to complete Section 7 (see below). The same documents are also available from within Section 7.

**3. Access Privileges.** Here you can provide access to your application to other parties. You can designate that a given party have “view only” access, if desired.

**4. Applicant/PI (complete online):** Most of these fields populate automatically with data from your Personal Profile.

If applicable, identify yourself as a new investigator. Generally, a new investigator has less than State whether you have had any prior business with CHRP such as a grant application or participation on our Task Force or any committee. If you used a different name at that time, please specify.

**5. Institution and Contacts (complete online):** Do not use generic e-mail addresses (e.g. [chrp@ucop.edu](mailto:chrp@ucop.edu)).

**6. Key Personnel (complete online):** Key Personnel are defined as individuals who contribute to the scientific development or execution of the project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not salaries are requested.

**7. Narrative Section and Other Attachments.** This section requires multiple PDF uploads as outlined below. The required items can be uploaded in any order, and do not need to be uploaded in a single session. For each template that is provided, you must fill out the document header. The minimum font size is 11 point, (8 point for figures and graphics). The minimum margin size is 1/2 inch. There is no required font style, but Times New Roman or Arial are recommended.

**8. Validate.** The web site will run an automatic checklist for all required items including the uploads listed as required in Section 8. Any missing items will be listed, and if there are no missing items you will be invited to proceed.

**9. Print Signature Pages When Application Complete.** This procedure generates Signature Pages and allows most of the application to be combined into one PDF document. See page 2 of these instructions, items 6 and 7 under "Online Application System", for details.

**10. Submit.** You must submit before 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time (8 p.m. Eastern Time) on March 18, 2008. Submit the signed Signature pages according to the "Submission and Deadlines" section of this document.

### III SUBMISSION AND DEADLINES

All applications must be submitted online through proposalCENTRAL at by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Tuesday, March 18, 2008.

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**Eastern) on Tuesday, March 18, 2008. Note that all times on the proposalCENTRAL web site are in U.S. Eastern Time. The deadline for online application submission is firm.**

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