The University’s internal deadline for the limited submission competition for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), Ebola Biosafety and Infectious Disease Response Training (UH4) (RFA-ES-15-018) is 8/24/15. If you are interested, please read on for details.


- **Purpose:** The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Worker Training Program (WTP) invites applications for cooperative agreements to support the development and implementation of occupational safety and health and infection control training programs for workers who may be at risk during infectious disease outbreaks. The awarded programs (awardees) will focus on dissemination of environmental infection control and hazard recognition training within a broad-set of occupational and community settings, including healthcare and non-healthcare job sectors. Awardees will identify target worker populations, environments or tasks that increase exposure to high risk pathogens (described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Category A Priority Pathogens/Agents at [http://www.bt.cdc.gov/bioterrorism/overview.asp](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/bioterrorism/overview.asp) and [http://www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/biodefenselated/biodefense/pages/cata.aspx](http://www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/biodefenselated/biodefense/pages/cata.aspx)). These are pathogens, such as Ebola Virus, that can be easily transmitted person-to-person and result in high mortality rates. In addition, awardees will provide training for workers on risk reduction and infection prevention for other infectious diseases that have the potential to result in high-to-moderate morbidity and mortality rates (described by the CDC NIAID Category B and C Priority Pathogens/Agents at [http://www.bt.cdc.gov/bioterrorism/overview.asp](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/bioterrorism/overview.asp) and [http://www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/biodefenselated/biodefense/pages/cata.aspx](http://www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/biodefenselated/biodefense/pages/cata.aspx)), through work duties or occupational settings.

The NIEHS WTP and potential awardees will work collaboratively to develop and target safety and health training for workers in various occupational settings and help establish basic risk assessment skill sets needed to handle other emerging infectious disease outbreaks. The NIEHS WTP will coordinate with the CDC, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to provide guidance materials, as developed or suggested under the cooperative agreements by federal partners, such as targeted fact sheets, videos, podcasts and so forth, and assist awardees to develop an evidence-based curricula that address understanding: (1) the science of Ebola (such as clinical manifestations, transmission of disease, persistence in the environment, and current protection and prevention measures); (2) appropriate application of controls and worker protection protocols as suggested by federal partners and other guidance agencies, when handling potentially contaminated materials or infected individuals. These include, as appropriate, an understanding engineering controls, administrative and work practices, selection and use of personal protective equipment (PPE), including training on donning and doffing of PPE, isolation and containment protocols, disinfection and disposal protocols; (3) the protection needed when working in potentially contaminated environments (such as a clinical or research laboratories and non-clinical facilities); (4) appropriate waste management and decontamination protocols, shipping and transport of infectious materials, and safer mortuary practices; (5) occupational health medical surveillance protocols (such as incident exposure reporting, medical surveillance of potentially exposed individuals, reporting of health status changes and post-exposure protocols); (6)
behavioral health resiliency (such as coping techniques for work related stress, protection from mental or physical exhaustion, promote psychosocial health and minimization of fear) and; (7) the need for and the objectives of training evaluation.

- **Funds Available & Anticipated Number of Awards:** NIH intends to commit $3 million in FY 2016 for a total of $9 million over a period of 3 years to fund an estimate of 5 to 8 awards.

- **Budget & Project Period:** Application budgets need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. Budgets are limited to $500,000 direct costs per year. The maximum project period is three (3) years.

- **Application Details:** Since the University of Miami may only submit one proposal, this opportunity is a limited submission competition. An expert panel will internally review our candidates to determine which application will be submitted for competition by the NIEHS deadline on October 21, 2015.

To apply, please send the following materials to Karen Lamper at klamper@miami.edu by 8/24/15:

- Title of Proposal
- Your biosketch; including current and pending grant support.
- A brief summary of your project (no more than two pages).

Please be cognizant that requested information above is required for the reviewers to make an informed decision/ranking regarding your research proposal for consideration as an internal award applicant. Failure to address each numbered sub-heading above can impact the ranking of your proposal.

**Note:** Biostatistical considerations in the design and analysis of proposed investigations are critical to the procurement of funding and quality of research. The Biostatistics Collaboration and Consulting Core (BCCC), as part of the Research Design and Biostatistics Component of the Miami CTSI, is available to provide support for grant proposal development. This support may be funded by service credits awarded by the Research Design and Biostatistics Component of the Miami CTSI. For more information, please contact Maria Jimenez-Rodriguez at mjrodriguez@biostat.med.miami.edu.

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