

Request for Sustainment of the PH Planning Support Component of the 2008 UASI Project – Health and Medical Planning Support Project

There are many ongoing efforts in the National Capital Region (NCR) to ensure the health and safety of residents, visitors and workers in the region. However, the level of planning required to adequately prepare for and respond to the public health consequences of a large-scale emergency or planned event cannot be sufficiently supported with the current level of resources dedicated to creating and maintaining public health emergency preparedness and response plans.

A recent UASI-funded Health & Medical Gap Analysis identified that most jurisdictions do not have adequate and/or completed plans across 13 critical planning categories - largely because the jurisdictions do not have the planning support required to further develop, maintain, and operationalize these plans. The recommendation was made to make an immediate, substantial investment in Public Health to bring planning efforts to the level necessary to effectively respond to a large-scale emergency.

In response to this recommendation, the SPG/CAOs approved 12-months of dedicated planning support to each local health district as part of the 2008 UASI Health and Medical Planning Support project; this support has allowed each health district to address the top four planning priorities for each health district. This planning process is being accomplished through a contractual agreement between COG and the contractor (ICF International). Reimbursement of the contractor is based on clearly identified deliverables. While this project is still in the early stages of implementation (starting in Oct '09), clear evidence of progress has already been made toward meeting these top four planning priorities within each jurisdiction.

While this planning effort has shown early success, there is more work to be done – with nine critical planning categories remaining at the completion of the current 12-month project. Public Health is requesting the sustainment of funds for this initiative for an additional 2 years – which will allow for the completion of all 13 critical public health preparedness planning categories as recommended by the Health & Medical Gap Analysis.

Summary

Request: 2-year sustainment of funds for the Public Health planning support component of the 2008 UASI Project – Health and Medical Planning Support Project.

Outcome: Completion of all 13 of the critical public health emergency preparedness planning categories by November 2012.

Cost Estimate: \$3 million (based on current funding of \$1.45 million for 12 month project)