Questions (Q) & Answers (A)
Last updated on December 22, 2017

Q: How many awards will be made?
A: It is estimated that three (3) cooperative agreement awards will be made.

Q: What is the total funding for the awards?
A: Approximately $600,000 is expected to be available annually to fund three recipients. You may apply for a ceiling amount of up to $200,000 total cost (includes both direct and indirect, facilities and administrative costs) per year.

Q: Are foreign entities eligible to apply to the Thalassemia program HRSA-18-079?
A: Federal grants and cooperative agreements are intended to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation within the United States authorized by federal law. The legal authority cited in the notice of funding opportunity for HRSA-18-079 authorizes projects of regional and national significance, meaning that the projects must have regional and national significance within the United States. Accordingly, projects funded under this NOFO may only be performed within the United States and must serve the U.S. thalassemia population.

Q: I am looking into Project ECHO for this grant. Is it ok to budget for travel for the team to New Mexico to take the training course (required)?
A: There are no restrictions on including funds for travel and/or training, for project related purposes, in your application. Just a note - all funding restrictions are located on pages 17-18.
Q: Would it make sense to have one steering committee for all three awardees, which would oversee the activities and provide strategic guidance and advice?  
A: Please be sure that the application addresses the program requirements, as stated in the notice of funding opportunity. Any changes to the requirements will be considered after awards are made.

Q: For the Memoranda of Agreement – can the partners be other hematology programs/primary care clinics or do the state partners refer more to government agencies?  
A: The NOFO states that applicants have partners in states and that state partners should be able to establish partnerships with primary and subspecialty clinicians, including hematologists and pediatric and adult clinicians, and establish partnerships with clinicians who have varying ranges of expertise treating individuals with thalassemia.  
We did not specify that those state partners be government agencies.

Q: Could the partner be a hematologist who sees patients with thalassemia and can establish partnerships with other local hematologists, subspecialists, primary care providers, etc…?  
A: Yes, as long as you can demonstrate that information in your application.

Q: Concerning the 80 page limit, is it acceptable to have each of the sections flow continuously? For example, having the project narrative immediately after the project abstract rather than using a new page for each section.  
A: Per the SF-424 instructions, the abstract is to be submitted separately from the project narrative. This information can be found on page 37 of the instructions, https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/grants/apply/applicationguide/sf-424-guide.pdf The other information, when it comes to the style of the narrative can be found on pages 38-39, this is the information are the application guidelines for applicants.

In addition, on page 8 of the notice of funding opportunity states:  
Project Narrative - This section provides a comprehensive framework and description of all aspects of the proposed project. It should be succinct, self-explanatory and well organized so that reviewers can understand the proposed project.  
These are the main instructions with regards to the style of the narrative portion of the application.