



APIN PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST/INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY FOR SELECTION OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION AS LOCAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNER (LIP) FOR CDC FUNDED GRANT GH2234

APIN Public Health Initiatives Ltd/Gte (APIN) is a leading non-governmental organization that focuses on the provision of prevention, care, and treatment services to patients with diseases of public health significance such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. APIN also provides technical assistance to relevant government agencies to strengthen the delivery of reproductive health, maternal, newborn, and child health, laboratory services, and other diseases of public health importance.

APIN is currently a recipient of US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant to implement a 5-year (October, 2022–September, 2027) project titled Accelerated Comprehensive AIDS Response for Epidemic Control and Sustainability (αCARES) in Benue, Plateau, Ogun, Oyo, and Ondo States. The goal of the project is to support the government of Nigeria (GoN) to achieve epidemic control across all supported CDC states across age and sex bands in different sub-populations.

We are mandated by this award to provide **HIV intervention among Key Populations in Benue, Ogun, Ondo, Oyo and Plateau States**. APIN is responsible for the following component which consists of the following programme areas:

1. Prevention and treatment among Female Sex Workers (FSW)
2. Prevention and treatment among Men who Have Sex with Men (MSM)
3. Prevention and treatment among People who Inject Drug (PWID)
4. Prevention and treatment among people in custodial Settings
5. Prevention and treatment among Children of Key Populations & young KPs
6. Prevention and treatment among Transgendered Persons (TG)

This programme would be implemented through Key Population (KP-led or KP-competent) Organizations at the Community level.

APIN invite proposals from **qualified and reputable organisations that are specialists in implementing Comprehensive HIV Intervention for KPs (FSW and MSM, PWID, TG and People in custodial settings); and Children of KPs & Young KPs, according to global standards and in line with National HIV/AIDS response**. They will be selected using approved APIN standard guidelines on Local Implementing Partner (LIP) selection. APIN will coordinate funding and provide technical support to the successful organisations and appointed as LIP. This engagement will be for a period of One year (October 1st 2023 – September 30th 2024).

APIN intends to engage the services of three 3 CBOs each per state for each of the KP sub-types and 1 CBO/NGO with capacity to implement HIV intervention for people in custodial settings in correctional centers across the **2 states (Oyo and Plateau) and MSM CBO for Ogun State; MSM CBO for Benue State**. (1 LIP for the FSW implementation, and 1 LIP for MSM and Transgender Persons, 1 LIP for PWID, 1 LIP for Ogun and Benue).

Objective of service: To provide integrated HIV service delivery across the cascade of care in line with the UNAIDS 95-95-95 target among KPs and intensify efforts to address stigma and discrimination in Community and healthcare settings, and social and legal barriers which inhibit achieving program targets.

Applicants should submit expressions of interest no longer than five (5) pages that highlights their experience in the following specific activities:

Specific Activities

1. Conduct Community level mapping and validation of size estimates of hotspots
2. Implement KP programmes in line with the national prevention strategy Stakeholder engagement with KP and other Community Gatekeepers e for support and ownership of the community intervention

3. Recruit and train KP Community Facilitators (CFs) Recruit and train Outreach Coordinators (OCs)
4. Coordinate weekly Interpersonal Communication (IPC) sessions by Community Facilitators.
5. Conduct monthly Review meetings with Community Facilitators and outreach coordinators to provide program updates, review demand creation activities conducted and map out plans for the following month
6. Promote, provide and distribute male and female condoms, lubricants and IEC materials.
7. Mobilize and Conduct targeted Mobile HIV Testing Services focusing on Key populations communities.
8. Carry out immediate accompanied referrals and linkage to treatment for HIV, STI, TB, cervical cancer screening, PrEP, and other wrap –around services.
9. Conduct Social Network Strategies to support demand creation for HIV services.
10. Initiate same day commencement on Anti-Retroviral Therapy (test and treat) for positive KPs through accompanied referral to One-Stop-Shop (OSS) and Community ART sites.
11. Conduct Adherence Counselling and Safe and ethical Index Testing Services
12. Active follow up of clients to ensure appointment compliance (for drug pick up, routine viral load sample collection) and continuity of treatment
13. Active engagement with law enforcement agencies as it relates to access to health regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity
14. Harness the power of digital platforms for outreach, education, and support while ensuring the privacy and safety of KPs. Develop and maintain a strong online presence, disseminating accurate and up-to-date information related to HIV prevention and care, promoting safer sex practices, and harm reduction strategies, and offering virtual counseling and support services; help in bridging the digital divide and effectively meet the unique needs and preferences of KPs in the era of virtual connectivity.
15. Conduct comprehensive assessments of mental health needs, provide counseling, psychosocial support, and psychoeducation, as well as advocate for the de-stigmatization of mental health issues. Also, actively collaborate with relevant stakeholders to ensure a holistic approach to mental health care, ultimately contributing to improved psychological well-being and the overall success of the HIV program.
16. Liaise with relevant security and human right agencies to track, prevent and resolve all gender, discrimination, violence and human rights issues affecting KPs Collaborate and engage with SACA, SMOH, LACA and other State actors

A: Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration, interested organizations must provide the following details:

1. Profile of the organization, Certificate of incorporation and other supporting documents (Current status reports), Management structure and Board membership;
2. Evidence of financial management systems (i.e., audited financial statements for 2021 and 2022);
3. Evidence of previous public health projects handled (Particularly among PWID, MSM, FSW, TG, People in Custodial settings - HIV positive KPs), with details of Grant amounts, funding agencies and period of such Grants;
4. Eligible Organisations must provide evidence of having managed similar donor funded projects of a minimum value of NGN30,000,000 (or other currency equivalent); and expended over a maximum period of two (2) years (within the last five years);
5. Evidence of up-to-date tax compliance (i.e., Tax Clearance/ Exemptions Certificates/ Remittance);
6. Evidence of Compliance with the Provision of the Pension Reform Act 2004 (Certificate of PENCOM Registration and most recent remittance);
7. Applicants must have an active Unique Entity Identification (UEI) number, from SAM.gov.

Note: Bidders employing or having in their management structure APIN staff members and family, LIP Selection Oversight Committee (LSOC), members and family; are exempted from participating in this bid.

B: Evaluation and Selection of the LIP

1. A technical panel will be constituted to review the EoI and shortlist Applicants to proceed to the next stage of Request for Proposals (RFP) based on the criteria listed above.
2. At this stage, a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ qualifier will be used to rate all the points above, and only bidders with an ALL yes qualifier, to the above listed criteria will proceed to the next stage.
3. Only organizations that satisfy the Pre-qualification requirements will be contacted with Requests for Proposal (RFP) document.
4. This advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of APIN to appoint any organization nor shall it entitle any organization to claim any indemnity from APIN.
5. All costs incurred by bidders as a result of this process and any subsequent requests for information shall be borne by the bidding organizations. This would include any costs incurred during functional demonstrations and subsequent meetings and negotiations.

6. The modification or withdrawal of bids/proposals shall be allowed if the request is received prior to the bid closing time. Modification or withdrawal requests must be made in writing and signed by an authorized signatory of the bidder. Telephone requests shall not be considered
7. The modification or withdrawal of a bid does not disqualify a bidder from submitting another bid on the same tender, as long as the bid is received prior to the closing date. Modification or withdrawal requests received after the closing time will not be allowed.

Kindly submit your application and cover letter electronically with the subject title “KP_ (typology) EXPRESSION OF INTEREST” on or before 20th November, 2023, explaining why you are suitable to: eoisubmission@apin.org.ng