

WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

NOFA-18-0001R Healthcare facility reporting of Antibiotic Use/Antibiotic Resistance Data to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention's National Healthcare Safety Network

ANSWERS ARE IN RED

1. Question: "We currently do not report AU or AR data. However we have signed a contract with VigiLanz (an outside vendor) that will allow us to report this data once it is up and running. We are currently in the implementation stages of the product and I estimate we will be LIVE with it in July or August. Since this contract was signed in February (prior to the grant being awarded) will we be able to submit the cost of this product (just the antimicrobial component) as part of the budget for this grant?"

Answer: Yes, you can submit the cost of the contract that allows your facility to report antibiotic use data as part of this funding. If the applicant is awarded the incentive funding, that facility is able to invoice from the day of the official grant award notification and going forward. It is anticipated that the funding time frame would begin July 1, 2018. The agency cannot reimburse items or invoices that are dated prior to the date of award. The notice of award details that reimbursement will be distributed as follows: 50% (\$15,000) for purchase of a software system and/or staff time and 50% (\$15,000) once certain deliverables are met such as successful upload of one month (1) of validated data, conferring data access to the agency, and submitting and participating in monthly status report calls. Therefore, \$15,000 can be utilized to pay the contract directly and \$15,000 will be paid once the objectives for incentive funding is met.

For example:

If your facility goes LIVE in July/August and the grant begins July 1, 2018 you are able to invoice for staff time and any costs associated with payment to the vendor should there be any.

When one month of CDC validated data has been successfully uploaded into the module any cost(s) associated with the upload may be reimbursed. Monthly participation calls with HAI program staff is a paid deliverable.

2. Question: "What is the decision time line on the AU grants?"

Answer: The deadline for applications is April 20th at 2 p.m. We allow about a week to evaluation applications and finalize recipients. I anticipate sending award notification by April 27th.

3. Question: "Can you tell me or point me in the direction of a list of compatible software vendors for this module?"

Answer: There are a number of self-identified vendor systems listed on the Society for Infectious Disease Pharmacists website. That link can be found here and includes information for both the AU and the AR option: <https://sidp.org/aurvendors/>.

4. Question: "We are currently just coming online with antimicrobial use reporting (this month) would we will be eligible to apply for the antimicrobial resistance reporting portion of the grant. I was unsure if a certain number of months of usage needed to be documented prior to this grant to be eligible for the resistance reporting."

Answer: Yes, you can use the funding to support your capacity to do the antibiotic resistance (AR) module. There are not a defined number of months that you need to have reported antibiotic use (AU) data only that you can and are currently. We ask that all facilities confer rights to the Arkansas Department of Health for AU data but as long as you can show documentation that you have reported using that module you can apply for AR module funding.

5. Question: "If we have purchased a platform that can accomplish the intent of the grant prior to July 1, 2018, but we don't submit data to NHSN until after July 1, 2018 (because we probably won't go live until then), are we still eligible for grant funding if we have costs associated with keeping the platform to submit data during the grant period. We will have to pay for our second year with the platform in February or March of 2019.

Answer: Yes, the incentive funding can be used for ancillary costs related to support your capacity for reporting. This can include staff time and any other costs associated with maintaining reporting and/or the validation process with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We cannot issue funding for activities performed or billed that are not within the grant time period which is anticipated to be July 1st, 2018– June 31st, 2019 and therefore would not be able to pay for a second year unless there is a timeline overlap with the grant funding window between year 1 and year 2 of your contract.