

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Training for Surveillance of Heart Disease, Stroke and Other Chronic Diseases in Local Health Departments

Information Conference Call November 22, 2013

Does the training location (for the 1st and 3rd trainings) need to be a place where staff from participating LHDs can drive to/from each day of the training?

Yes, the location should be close enough so that participants can drive to/from the training by car each day. LHDs should partner with neighboring health departments and as a group decide where the training should be held.

What if we don't have a neighboring/nearby local health department in our state that is interested in participating in the training? Can we partner with LHDs in other states that are closer?

The first step would be to reach out to neighboring/nearby health departments in your state to determine if they are interested in participating (even if you have not previously partnered with them.) If there are no neighboring/nearby LHDs interested, or if geographically you are within driving distance to local health departments in other states but not in your own state, then it would be allowed to partner with local health departments in other states provided they are located in states that are eligible to participate (please see RFA for eligibility requirements - state health department must have participated in the state GIS capacity building project.)

Given that many LHDs are in a state of flux, what happens if the individual who receives the GIS training leaves? Would there be re-training?

One of the reasons that multiple people from each LHD are required to participate in the core team for the GIS training is that we realize staff turnover does occur. While we encourage members of the core team to be those who plan to stay with the LHD for an extended period of time, we hope that if and when people do leave they share their knowledge with others. We are not able to offer re-training.

What if the LHD cannot pay the maintenance cost to keep the license current?

It depends on the type of license that you request. Single machine installs with media allow you to continue use of the software but you would not receive updates and therefore is not preferable. Web authorization for software would not allow you continued use of the software.

Can I bring in a local community hospital partner as part of my team?

If there is already an established and on-going collaboration with a hospital partner and if this partnership directly serves the interests of the local health department, we would support this participation.

What is the estimated financial award of this training?

Money for the training is not directly transferred to the LHD. However, any expenses that are incurred by the LHD regarding participation in this training (e.g. transportation) will be reimbursed. Meals are provided during each session.

We are an ACHIEVE wellness community with NACDD. Should we highlight this in our application?

Each local health department should highlight any on-going or planned-for activities that demonstrate your vision for using GIS to address local issues regarding the surveillance, prevention and treatment of heart disease, stroke and other chronic diseases.

What is the licensing that is offered through this training?

The exact licensing that is offered to each health department is based upon the needs assessment that is performed after a local health department has been selected to participate in this project. The software licensing usually includes ArcGIS Desktop at ArcBasic level and two extensions: Network Analyst and Spatial Analyst

Should someone with GIS expertise attend the training?

It is wonderful to involve people with GIS expertise. We encourage people who already have GIS expertise to be involved on the expanded team. This leaves open the opportunity for people with a moderate amount or no amount of GIS experience to be members of the core GIS team and participate in all of the trainings. If there is enough room and computing resources available at the location your group identifies for the GIS trainings, then it is possible for people with more extensive GIS experience to participate in the trainings as well and serve as a guide to those who are new to GIS.

If we already have an ESRI Enterprise license could we receive award money to go towards the license?

No, there would be no funds available to apply towards the already existing license. However, depending upon the results of the needs assessment, performed after local health departments are selected to participate in this project, it might be possible to add additional licenses or extensions depending upon your specific licensing situation.

Some Regional Health Departments cover multiple counties and LHDs. How big is too big for the number of partnering health departments that can participate in the training?

We realize that the structure and size of local health departments vary from state to state. The main objectives for requesting local health departments to partner is to enhance the efficiency of providing the GIS training and increase opportunities for collaboration. If you can demonstrate that a modified form of partnering among local health agencies is needed within your state or region to address these objectives given the existing organization of local health department, we would be interested in hearing your ideas.

We have a strong GIS Department outside of the Health Department. Should someone from our GIS Department serve as the Team Lead for this GIS Capacity Building Project?

This RFA is written to enhance GIS capacity within local health departments and therefore the local health department needs to be the lead agency. However, GIS analysts from a GIS Department within the city or county but outside the health department could serve on the expanded team and provide support and guidance to those within the health department.