

California Department of Public Health Center for Infectious Diseases Office of AIDS, Care Branch

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

RFA# 22-10226.

Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba

Release Date: May 6, 2022

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program provides housing assistance and supportive services to prevent or reduce homelessness for persons living with HIV (PLWH). The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Office of AIDS (OA) is statutorily responsible for coordinating all state programs, services, and activities pertaining to HIV/AIDS (California Health & Safety Code 131019). OA assumes the grant administration responsibilities, as the State of California HOPWA Grantee. OA allocates HOPWA funds to 40 non-Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Areas of California.

The HOPWA program was authorized by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act of 1992 and is funded through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in accordance with Title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 574 (24 CFR Part 574).

Within OA, the HIV Care Branch administers HIV care and support programs, including HOPWA. The goals of the HIV Care Branch are to: (1) reduce the number of HIV infections, (2) increase access to quality of care, and (3) reduce HIV/AIDS related health disparities. These goals are consistent with the National HIV/AIDS Strategy goals.

The HOPWA program goals are to: (1) increase housing stability, (2) reduce risk of homelessness, and (3) increase access to care and support. HUD funds are utilized to administer the HOPWA program to provide housing assistance and supportive services to meet the needs of PLWH who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The HIV Care Branch contracts with local government and non-profit organizations to provide housing and supportive services to low income PLWH, rather than providing direct services.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Request for Application (RFA) is to fund one or more Eligible Entities (EE) to provide and enhance access to housing and supportive services for low-income PLWH in Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba Counties. The EE will obtain funding from OA to administer allowable HOPWA housing and/or supportive services listed in Table 1. HOPWA funds may be used only for persons determined to meet medical and financial eligibility requirements outlined in the "Program Requirements" section of this RFA. HOPWA funds may not be used for items or services that are eligible for coverage by other county, state, and/or federal programs. This provision is commonly referred to as the "payer of last resort" requirement.

The EE are not required to fund or provide all the allowable housing and supportive services. However, HOPWA clients must have access to case

management services, whether funded through HOPWA, Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP), or some other source.

The EE must consider what is needed by the eligible population in the selected service areas and identify existing services in the community when determining what allowable housing and/or supportive services to fund. This includes, but is not limited to, other local and state HIV programs. The EE can request to update the proposed allowable services during the grant period if there is a change to the need of eligible population and/or the availability of other resources. The changes, if any, must be approved by OA.

Table 1: Allowable HOPWA Services

Facility-Based Housing Costs

- Emergency Shelters
- Leasing Costs (e.g., Hotel/Motel Voucher Assistance)
- Transitional Housing

Housing Information Services

 HIS (housing counseling, referral services, fair housing)

Permanent Housing Placement Services

- First Month's Rent, Credit Checks, Utility Hook-ups, Application fees
- Security Deposit Assistance

Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility (STRMU) Assistance

- Emergency Rent
- Utility Assistance
- Mortgage Assistance

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)

 Tenant-Based Rental Assistance

Supportive Services

- Adult day care and/or personal assistance
- Alcohol and drug abuse services
- Case Management, Client Advocacy, Access to Benefits/Services
- Childcare and other child services
- Education
- Employment assistance and training
- Health, Medical, Intensive Care Services
- Legal services
- Life skills management
- Meals/nutrition services
- Mental Health
- Outreach
- Transportation

Resource Identification

Please refer to Attachment 6 for definitions of service categories.

III. SERVICE AREA

The EE has the option to apply for funding to serve all eight counties or one or more service areas. The EE must be able to provide services to eligible residents in all counties they apply to serve. The four options are outlined below.

Table 2. Service Areas

| Option | Service Area |
|--------|--|
| One | Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and |
| | Yuba Counties |
| Two | Butte and Glenn Counties |
| Three | Colusa, Sutter, and Yuba Counties |
| Four | Shasta, Tehama, and Trinity Counties |

IV. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

The California HIV Surveillance Report 2019 provides statistics on PLWH throughout California. The table below shows (1) the number of PLWH in each of the selected service areas, (2) the number and percent of PLWH who are in medical care, and (3) the number and percent of PLWH who are virally suppressed. To view the full report, go to www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cid/doa/pages/oa case surveillance reports.aspx.

Table 3. Continuum of HIV care for persons living with diagnosed HIV infection as of December 31, 2019 — Selected Service Areas

| Service Areas | Persons living with diagnosed HIV infection | In Care | Virally Suppressed |
|--|---|-------------|-----------------------|
| Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba | 792 | 632 (79.8%) | 379 (47.9%) |
| Butte and Glenn | 285 | 229 (80.4%) | 56 (19.6%) |
| Colusa, Sutter, and Yuba | 219 | 168 (76.7%) | 124 (56.6%) |
| Shasta, Tehama, and Trinity | 288 | 235 (81.6%) | 199 (69.1%) |

The table below shows (1) the number of clients who received one or more HOPWA services during 2019 in each of the selected service areas and (2) the percent of HOPWA clients by housing status.

Table 4. Clients Served by the HOPWA Program during Calendar Year 2019

— Selected Counties

| Service Areas | Total Clients Served | Percent of Clients with a Stable Housing Status | Percent of Clients with a Temporary Housing Status | Percent of Clients with an Unstable Housing Status |
|--|----------------------------|---|--|--|
| Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba | 119 | 78% | 14% | 4% |
| Butte and Glenn | 41 | 85% | 12% | 2% |
| Colusa, Sutter, and Yuba | 22 | 73% | 18% | 0% |
| Shasta, Tehama, and Trinity | 56 | 75% | 14% | 7% |

V. AWARD SUMMARY

The anticipated start of the grant is July 4, 2022 July 25, 2022, but may vary due to the time required to finalize the agreements, obtain signatures, and process the agreements between selected EE and CDPH. The anticipated end of the grant is June 30, 2023. OA will determine funding allocation using the existing HOPWA formula. The anticipated HOPWA amounts to be awarded are dependent on the designated service areas. Applicants may apply to serve all counties or one or more service area(s). See tables below for the anticipated award amounts for each service area.

Table 5. Anticipated Award Amounts

| Option | Service Area | FY 2022-23 Estimated Allocation |
|--------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| One | Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, | \$324,111 |
| | Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba | |
| | Counties | |
| Two | Butte and Glenn Counties | \$116,039 |
| Three | Colusa, Sutter, and Yuba Counties | \$90,317 |
| Four | Shasta, Tehama, and Trinity | \$117,755 |
| | Counties | |

Based on awarded EE performance and availability of federal funds, a new grant will be executed for an additional five-year term.

The awardee is not authorized to begin work until the agreement is finalized. Work conducted outside the effective start and end date of the agreement will not be eligible for reimbursement. All funding is contingent on the availability and continuation of federal funds allocated for the delivery of HOPWA activities.

CDPH reserves the right to negotiate with the selected EE (s) should not all service areas have qualified and acceptable applicants.

VI. ELIGIBLE ENTITY

Funding is to be awarded to one or more EE that has the organizational capacity to fulfill program and administrative requirements. The EE may be (1) a local government entity such as a local health department or community development agency or (2) a non-profit community-based organization such as an AIDS service organization. The EE must demonstrate their ability to administer housing programs and/or HIV services. The EE must have an existing infrastructure and be physically located in the selected service area.

EE must have the ability to issue checks and documents to landlords with an entity name that does not contain any reference to AIDS or HIV. This may require a doing business as (DBA) for some entities.

If the EE intends to subcontract some HOPWA services, a description must be provided in the narrative response detailing how services will be delivered and how the awarded EE will monitor the subcontractor for performance and compliance with program requirements annually. Subcontractors must also have an existing infrastructure and be physically located in the designated service areas.

VII. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The EE must comply with OA and HUD program requirements as described in this RFA. OA will provide additional guidance and technical assistance to ensure the awarded EE has a clear understanding of all required programmatic, administrative, and fiscal requirements. The EE must have policies and procedures to ensure only clients who meet the medical and financial eligibility requirements listed below, are served by the HOPWA program. In addition, the EE must ensure clients maintain program eligibility to receive HOPWA services. To be eligible for HOPWA services, at least one person residing in the household has been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Eligible single-person or family households may receive HOPWA housing assistance. HOPWA regulation defines a family as

a household composed of two or more related persons and includes a person or persons who are determined to be important to the care or well-being of the PLWH.

Individuals must provide:

- Documentation of HIV-positive status;
- Documentation of income at 80 percent or below area median income (AMI) as defined by HUD; and
- Be homeless or at risk of being homeless.

HOPWA funds cannot be used for services that could reasonably be paid for or be provided by another funding source. The EE must collaborate and coordinate with key points of entry such as RWHAP providers, health departments, substance abuse treatment programs, housing programs, migrant health centers, and mental health programs. The EE must have a system in place to: (1) receive referrals from key points of entry and (2) refer clients to other necessary services in the selected service areas. The EE is encouraged to maintain said working relationships by establishing written referral processes and/or memoranda of understanding with key community partners.

The EE must comply with all reporting and data collection requirements, which includes submission of Mid-Year and Annual HOPWA Progress Reports. The EE must collect and enter client-level data into OA's care data system. The EE must have the staff capacity to comply with reporting and data collection requirements. OA will provide reporting and data collection guidance once awarded.

VIII. PROGRAM COMPONENTS NARRATIVE

1. Program Description (10 points)

This section must address the following:

- a. The EE's ability to assess organizational performance and client outcomes.
- b. Ability to comply with HOPWA data reporting requirements described in the RFA. The description must address the following:
 - Available resources (e.g., current dedicated staff, or plans to hire or reassign staff) that will facilitate data collection, data input, and/or data report submission.
 - The EE's experience collecting and entering client-level data into the OA-approved data system (such as AIDS Regional

Information and Evaluation System) and the ability to maintain security and confidentiality.

2. Organizational Infrastructure (12 points)

This section must address the following components:

- Describe how the program will be organized and staffed.
- Describe how the EE's personnel policies and practices assure that well qualified staff are hired and retained for fiscal, administrative, data management, and client services.
- If the EE needs to hire new staff for the implementation of HOPWA, describe the EE's hiring process, including how long it takes to recruit and hire staff.
- Describe the EE's capacity to reassign staff within the beginning of the grant if (if necessary) for the development and implementation of HOPWA.
- Describe the EE's infrastructure, including a description of all service location(s) and accessibility (e.g., transportation availability, American Disability Act accessibility) in selected service areas.
- Include an organizational chart outlining the number of staff with titles in the Appendix.

3. Program implementation (12 points)

This section must address the following components:

- Plans to develop forms, processes, and procedures such as an intake application process, release of confidential information, termination and grievance processes, individual housing needs assessment and plan and participation agreement.
- Develop client referrals and a waiting list.
- Establish collaborative relationships including, but not limited to RWHAP, local housing agencies, and other community partners that provide supportive services to PLWH.

- Describe how the EE will reach out to and serve clients who reside in counties in their selected service area(s) where the EE does not have a physical presence.
- Describe proposed staffing structure specific to HOPWA program (e.g., who will have primary responsibility for coordinating the program, who will exercise major administrative or policy roles, who will need to be hired).
- Plan to securely maintain client records, document housing and client activity.
- Plan to maintain client confidentiality.
- Plan to make timely rental subsidy payments to landlords.
- If funding hotel/motel, plan to ensure payments can be established in a matter of days to provide hotel/motel assistance to clients in emergency situations.

4. Agency Capacity (49 points)

This section must address the following components:

Experience working with PLWH (12 points)

- A brief history that includes the establishment date of the organization, examples of past accomplishments, and current programs.
- Describe the working relationship (if any) that the EE has with RWHAP provider(s) in selective service areas.
- Describe what programs and services the EE currently provides to PLWH.
- Describe the EE's working relationship with other HIV programs within the community.

Success in managing similar program(s) (12 points)

 Describe the EE's experience in managing other HIV and/or housing programs.

Cultural competency (5 points)

 Describe the EE's cultural competency to work with a diverse population, particularly those experiencing disparities in health or housing.

Inter-disciplinary service teams (10 points)

- Describe the EE's experience participating in inter-disciplinary service teams. For example, case managers attending Care teams or case conferencing with housing specialists, mental health, or substance use disorder providers.
- Describe the agencies who currently refer clients to the EE and the referral process.
- Discuss how the EE will ensure that key points of entry are aware of the EE's HOPWA services.

Fiscal capacity to provide housing assistance payments (10 points)

 Describe the EE's fiscal capacity, including their ability to issue checks to landlords, utility companies, mortgage lenders, or transitional housing facilities in less than 30-days and with an entity name that does not contain any reference to AIDS or HIV.

IX. BUDGET (17 points)

The HOPWA budget template must be completed as instructed in the budget guidance. The budget template must explain all expenses. Applicants are responsible for ensuring the calculations in the budget are accurate. There will be no reimbursement of pre-award costs. The HOPWA budget template and instructions will be provided once an email of intent is received. OA reserves the right to deny requests for any item listed in the budget that is deemed unnecessary or unallowable. Prohibited uses of funds include, but are not limited, to:

- Cash payment to intended clients of services
- Research
- International travel
- Construction (minor alterations and renovations to an existing facility to make it more suitable for the purposes of the award program are allowable with prior written approval from OA)

The aggregate of administrative expenditures, including all indirect costs, may not exceed seven (7) percent of the total allocation.

X. QUESTIONS AND APPLICATION EVALUATION PROCESS

If upon reviewing this RFA, a potential applicant has any questions regarding the RFA, discovers any problems, including any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or any other error, the applicant shall immediately notify OA via email to request clarification or modification of this RFA.

All such inquires shall identify the author, applicant entity name, address, telephone number, and email address, and shall identify the subject in question, specific discrepancy, section and page number, or other information relative to describing the discrepancy or specific question.

If a prospective applicant fails to notify OA of any problem or question known to an applicant by the date indicated in this section, the applicant shall apply at EE's own risk. Prospective applicants are reminded that applications are to be developed based solely upon the information contained in this document and any written addenda issued by OA.

XI. RFA APPLICATION EVALUATION PROCESS

Following the closing date for application submissions, OA will evaluate each application to determine responsiveness to the RFA requirements. Applications found to be non-responsive at any stage of the evaluation, for any reason, will be rejected from further consideration. Late applications will not be reviewed.

OA may reject any or all applications and may waive any immaterial defect in any application. OA's waiver of any immaterial defect shall in no way excuse the applicant from full compliance with the grant terms if the applicant is awarded the grant. Please note that submitting budgets with "to be determined" positions will not exempt the applicant from providing detail on specific services to be provided by the positions listed.

1. Grounds for Rejection

OA may, at its sole discretion, correct any obvious mathematical or clerical errors identified in the RFA. OA reserves the right to reject any or all applications without remedy to the applicants. Circumstances that will cause an application package to be deemed non-responsive include:

a. The application is received after the deadline set forth in this RFA.

- b. Failure of the applicant to complete required forms and attachments as instructed in this RFA.
- c. Failure to meet format or procedural submission requirements.
- d. Applicant provides inaccurate, false, or misleading information or statements.
- e. Applicant is unwilling or unable to fully comply with proposed grant terms.
- f. Applicant supplies cost information that is conditional, incomplete, or contains any unsigned material, alterations, or irregularities.
- g. Applicant does not meet EE qualifications set forth in this RFA.
- h. Applicant does not use and/or modifies the Application Narrative Template or other provided attachments.

2. Application Review

Applications that meet the format requirements and contain all the required forms and documentation will be submitted to an evaluation committee convened by OA. The committee will assign numeric scores to each responsive application. The applications will be evaluated in each category based upon the quality and completeness of its response to the RFA requirements. Once scored, the applications will be reviewed to ensure coverage of all counties. The evaluation will constitute recommendations to OA management. Final approval of awardees will be made by the OA division chief.

Table 6: RFA Application Review Criteria Summary

| Review Criteria | Possible Points |
|--|-----------------|
| Program Description | 10 |
| Organizational Infrastructure | 12 |
| Program Implementation | 12 |
| Agency Capacity | - |
| Experience working with PLHW | 12 |
| Success in managing similar programs | 12 |
| Cultural competency | 5 |
| Inter-disciplinary service teams | 10 |
| Fiscal capacity to provide housing assistance payments | 10 |
| Budget | 17 |
| Total Possible Points | 100 |

XII. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RFA SUBMISSION

EEs must submit an email of intent to receive the required attachments to complete this RFA application. The email of intent must be sent to: HOPWARFA@cdph.ca.gov

The email of intent must include the following language in the subject line: "HOPWA RFA-Email of Intent" and it must be received by the due date. The EE must identify the service area option(s) for which they plan to apply (see table in Section III).

Table 7: RFA Tentative Timeline and Award Schedule

| Event | Date |
|--|--|
| RFA Release | May 6, 2022 |
| Technical Assistance Webinar | May 19, 2022 |
| Deadline for Submitting Written Questions | May 20, 2022 |
| Deadline to Submit Email of Intent (Mandatory) | May 26, 2022 June 16, 2022 |
| Application Submission Deadline | June 10, 2022 July 1, 2022 |
| Anticipated Award Notification(s) | June 24, 2022 July 15, 2022 |
| Anticipated Appeal Deadline | July 1, 2022 July 22, 2022 |
| Anticipated Grant Start Date | July 4, 2022 July 25, 2022, or upon execution of the grant, whichever occurs later. |

1. Application Submission Requirements

The provided application templates must be used when responding to the RFA. Do not reformat any of the templates. The size of the lettering must be at minimum 11-point, Calibri font. Applications that fail to follow the requirements may not be considered.

EEs intending to apply are expected to thoroughly examine the entire contents of this RFA and become fully aware of all the requirements outlined in this RFA.

Applications are to be developed solely on the material contained in this RFA and attachments provided. The following is the order in which sections in the application must be submitted. A complete application package must be submitted.

A brief description of each section to be included is given below:

- a. Application Certification Checklist: Complete the checklist (Attachment 1). This sheet will serve as the guide to make certain that the application package is complete, and to ensure that the required documents are organized in the correct order.
- b. Application Cover Sheet: Complete the application cover sheet (Attachment 2). This sheet must be signed by an official authorized to enter into a contractual agreement on behalf of the EE.
- c. **RFA Application Narrative**: Complete an RFA Application Narrative covering the funding period, from July 4, 2022 July 25, 2022 through June 30, 2023. This section will include the EE's responses to the Narrative Program Components outlined in the "Program Requirements" of the RFA. The narrative should be no more than 15 pages (single-spaced). (Note: Applicant(s) must utilize a blank Word Document).
- d. **HOPWA Budget Template**: Complete the first year of the HOPWA Budget Template. EEs must reference the HOPWA Budget Instructions.
- e. **Required Form/Documentation:** Include the following forms/documents to the application as attachments. Please note that all forms must have the same exact entity name throughout, or they will not be accepted by the Contracts Management Unit. For example, if the licensed name of an agency is "Community Healthcare Center Inc.", all documents must include that full name and not a shorten version such as "Community Health".
 - a. Local health departments must complete a Government Agency Taxpayer ID Form CDPH 9083 (1/18). This form is required for payments to entities and will be kept on file at CDPH. (Attachment 6)
 - b. Community Based Organizations must complete a Payee Data Record, STD 204 (Rev. 3/21). It is required for payments to entities and will be kept on file at CDPH. (Attachment 4)

2. Application Submission

Applications must be submitted via email to the address below by 5:00 p.m. PST on June 10, 2022 July 1, 2022.

Email Address: HOPWARFA@cdph.ca.gov

3. Attachment Summary

EEs are required to submit an email of intent prior to receive the applicable attachments to complete the RFA application. EEs must submit an email of intent by May 26, 2022 June 16, 2022 to: HOPWARFA@cdph.ca.gov.

The following are the attachments the EEs will receive once an email of intent is submitted to OA.

- 1. Application Certification Checklist
- 2. Application Cover Sheet
- 3. RFA Application Narrative Template
- 4. HOPWA Budget Instructions
- 5. HOPWA Budget Template
- 6. Allowable HOPWA Services
- 7. Government Agency Taxpayer ID Form (CDPH 9083)
- 8. Payee Data Record (STD 204 and STD 205)

4. Notification of Intent to Award

It is anticipated that Notification of the State's intent to award grant to an EE in the designated service areas to deliver HOPWA and services will be posted no later than June 24, 2022 July 15, 2022.

5. Disposition and Ownership of the Application

All materials submitted in response to this RFA will become the property of CDPH and, as such, are subject to the Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250, et. seq.). OA shall have the right to use all ideas or adaptations of the ideas contained in any application received. The selection or rejection of an application will not affect this right. Within the constraints of applicable law, OA shall use its best efforts not to publicly release any information contained in the applications which may be privileged under Evidence Code 1040 (Privileged Official Record) and 1060 (Privileged Trade Secret) and which is clearly marked "Confidential" or information that is protected under the Information Practices Act.

6. Grant Award Appeal Procedures

An EE who has submitted an application and was not funded may file an appeal with OA. Appeals must state the reason, law, rule, regulation, or practice that the EE believes has been improperly applied regarding the evaluation or selection process. There is no appeal process for applications that are submitted late or are incomplete. Appeals shall be limited to the following grounds:

a. OA failed to correctly apply the application review process, the format requirements or evaluating the applications as specified in the RFA.

b. OA failed to follow the methods for evaluating and scoring the applications as specified in the RFA.

Appeals must be sent by email to HOPWARFA@cdph.ca.gov and must be received by July 22, 2022. The Division Chief of OA, or her designee, will then come to a decision based on the written appeal letter. The decision of the Chief of OA, or her designee, shall be the final remedy. Applicants will be notified by email within 15 days of the consideration of the written appeal letter. OA reserves the right to award the grant when it believes that all appeals have been resolved, withdrawn, or responded to the satisfaction of OA.

7. Miscellaneous RFA Information

The issuance of this RFA does not constitute a commitment by OA to award grants. OA reserves the right to reject any or all applications or to cancel this RFA if it is in the best interest of OA to do so. The award of a grant by OA to an entity that proposes to use subcontractors for the performance of work under the resulting grant shall not be interpreted to approve the selection of subcontractors. Subcontractors can only be added or changed after a grant is awarded with OA approval of a formal grant amendment. In the event a grant is entered, but later terminated, OA has the option to enter into a grant with the entity or organization that had the next highest ranking in the evaluation process for completion of the remaining grant work.

In the case of any inconsistency or conflict between the provisions of the resulting grant, this RFA, addenda to this RFA, and an EE's response, such inconsistencies or conflicts will be resolved by first giving precedence to the grant, then to this RFA, any addenda, and last to the EE's response. OA reserves the right, after grant award, to amend the resulting grant as needed throughout the term of the grant to best meet the needs of all parties.

8. Grant Obligations

The successful EE must enter into a grant that may incorporate, by reference, this RFA as well as the application submitted in response to this RFA. It is suggested that EEs carefully review these grantee provisions for any impact on your application and/or to determine if the EE will be able to comply with the stated terms and conditions, as little or no deviation from their contents will be allowed.

Individual meetings with OA and the selected EE shall take place within 60 days after release of the Notice of Intent to Award. The purpose of the meetings will be to assure a common understanding of grant purposes, terms, budgets, timelines, and related issues.

9. Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion Certification

You on behalf of the applicant organization, certify, by submission of your proposal, that neither you nor your principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency. Please check the System for Award Management (SAM) list at SAM.gov.