

Project SEARCH IQC

IQC BENEFITS

- ▶ **Pre-qualified, shortlisted contractors**
Competition among the Project SEARCH IQC holders offers a streamlined alternative to full and open competition.
- ▶ **USAID/W or mission-based**
Task orders may be written centrally, or missions may issue task orders themselves. When missions issue task orders, the procurement process is managed by the local Contracting Officer (CO) and the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) within the mission.
- ▶ **Ease of procurement**
IQCs facilitate procurement because terms and conditions have already been negotiated with the prime IQC holders.
- ▶ **Sole sourcing**
Task orders may be sole sourced to IQC holders when deemed appropriate by the mission.

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What is an Indefinite Quantity Contract (IQC)?

USAID and other U.S. Government agencies use Indefinite Quantity Contracts (IQCs) to pre-qualify contractors in specific technical areas. Competition is limited to pre-qualified firms who then compete for request for task order proposals (RFTOPs) issued under the IQC. IQCs may be either single or multiple award contracts, and may include small business set-asides. Please note that the end date of a task order (TO) contract may extend for a period of three years beyond the end date of the IQC.

What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH (Supporting Evaluation and Research to Combat HIV/AIDS) strives to improve the coverage, quality, and effectiveness of HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment programs worldwide, building on lessons learned from research and evaluation activities. SEARCH also seeks to use results from training and in-country collaborations to strengthen local capacity in HIV/AIDS research and public health assessment. Project SEARCH may be used to

- Develop and evaluate models for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment programs;
- Carry out public health evaluations to investigate the effectiveness of interventions and integrate successful results into public health guidelines;
- Identify and disseminate best practices to further improve program efficiency and effectiveness;
- Develop national and international standards and indicators to monitor and evaluate programming;
- Conduct analyses of clinical, community-level, and population-based epidemiological, demographic, and surveillance data;
- Test program implementation models, including research on practical applications of new technologies and intervention models in resource-poor settings;
- Carry out feasibility and community preparedness studies and policy analyses; and
- Develop local capacity in applied research and ethical procedures by increasing the technical skills of developing country investigators and by providing technical assistance to in-country institutions.

Futures is one of five prime contractors under the Project SEARCH IQC. Our partners are Cloudburst Consulting Group; Cultural Practice; University of Washington Center for AIDS and STD, representing the National Centers for AIDS Research Global AIDS Research Consortium (C-GARC); Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation; and Futures Institute.

The following prime contractors have been pre-selected, through a competitive process, to be invited to bid on task orders issued under the Project SEARCH IQC: Futures, Boston University, Family Health International, John Hopkins University, and The Population Council.



What is the general IQC process and how does it work?

Either USAID's Bureau of Global Health (GH) or one of USAID's missions will prepare and submit a scope of work (SOW) and budget to the USAID/W Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) for review and clearance. The COTR then sends comments/clearance to GH or the relevant mission who will in turn provide the Contracting Officer (CO) with the project's SOW, budget, and justifications. The CO sends the RFTOP to contractors (prime contractor IQC directors). IQC holders are provided with "reasonable time" to submit Task Order (TO) proposals to be evaluated against pre-set criteria. The CO will then award a TO contract. The project COTR receives copies of the TO, an evaluation selection memorandum, and a negotiation memorandum. Performance is monitored by the mission and GH.

Who manages the Project SEARCH IQC at Futures?

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Who manages the Project SEARCH IQC at USAID?

Project SEARCH is managed by a team in the Office of HIV/AIDS at USAID in Washington.

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Missions can contact the SEARCH management team in Washington for further information or assistance in developing RFTOPs.

Please visit the Project SEARCH website for more information:

<http://ghiqc.usaid.gov/projsearch/about/index.html> and
www.projectsearchiqc.com

Futures brings to Project SEARCH a wealth of experience in:

- Applied and operational research.
- Use of research to achieve public health and social development goals in target countries.
- Research directly applicable to developing country needs, including the application of research to country programs.
- Evidenced-based policy and program decisionmaking, to ensure that programs deliver results.
- The design of software applications and computer models to facilitate effective policymaking, analyze information, and determine the impact of specific programs.

The **Futures Team** brings together experienced USAID partners with small businesses, to provide USAID with the full range of technical expertise, solid managerial capacity, and specialized solutions necessary to successfully achieve results. The Futures Team is comprised of:

- **Cloudburst Consulting Group**, a small business, expert in conducting applied and behavioral research, research on health services and health systems, operations research, cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis, and new technology development.
- **Cultural Practice**, a small business, expert in behavioral and qualitative research and gender analysis.
- **Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation**, a U.S. nonprofit organization, expert in HIV/AIDS; pediatric operational and clinical research; and prevention, care, and treatment for people with HIV/AIDS.

- **Futures Institute**, a small business, brings a focus on enhancing social and economic development by providing tools and technical assistance in policy, planning, resource allocation, and evaluation.
- **University of Washington (UW) Center for AIDS and STD**, representing the Centers for AIDS Research Global AIDS Research Consortium (C-GARC), brings expertise in interdisciplinary HIV/AIDS research, education, and service programs in most regions of the developing world.

The Futures Team also includes a pool of specialized research institutions. These institutions are:

- Instituto Nacional de Salud Publica, Mexico
- The Academic Alliance
- Joint Clinical Research Centre, Uganda
- Makerere University, Uganda and
- The Centre for Infectious Disease Research, Zambia

Futures leads the DATE Task Order

Futures Group currently manages Data Analysis and Triangulation for Evaluation (DATE) – Nigeria. We lead the DATE project partnership, made up of the University of California, San Francisco, and a local Nigerian partner, the Association for Reproductive and Family Health.

DATE has four key objectives:

- Synthesize and triangulate data to inform recommendations for Nigeria's HIV sexual transmission prevention priorities.
- Carry out a focused impact evaluation of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) ABC programming using the data triangulation methodology.
- Determine data gaps relevant to sexual prevention programming in Nigeria.
- Build capacity in triangulation and data use among key stakeholders.