

## Northern Virginia Emergency Response System

### Special Call for Project Concept Proposals

#### Overview

The Northern Virginia Emergency Response System (NVERS) Steering Committee is accepting additional project concept proposals for FY20 funding consideration.

While proposals submitted in response to this special call are not required to receive formal endorsements from discipline committees as a prerequisite for consideration, the Steering Committee strongly recommends that project sponsors engage their discipline leadership and representatives on the Steering Committee to ensure their proposals are in the best interest of the sub-region. As outlined in the evaluation criteria, projects that build infectious disease capability and/or capacity across disciplines and jurisdictions may receive more favorable evaluations. Conversely, projects of limited benefit to a single discipline, or developed without attempts to engage discipline leadership or Steering Committee representatives, may not be favorably evaluated.

The Steering Committee approved a modified Project Concept Proposal Worksheet (Appendix A) to provide project sponsors with a standardized approach when submitting proposals for consideration. Project sponsors may request technical assistance from NVERS staff in compiling their proposals by sending an email to [fy20@nvers.org](mailto:fy20@nvers.org).

The NVERS Steering Committee will review and evaluate submitted proposals. Following review and evaluation, proposals will be:

- Recommended to the NVERS Board of Directors for funding consideration;
- Sent back to the project sponsor with a request for additional information; or
- Not recommended for funding under this initiative.

If the Steering Committee recommends a proposed project for funding, and the Board of Directors accepts the recommendation, the Board of Directors will determine the resources necessary to support the project proposal. Based on funding requests and strategic priorities, the Board of Directors may choose to fully fund the project, partially fund the project, fund the project out of alternate or future funds, defer the project, or reject the project for funding.

#### Timeline

Project sponsors requesting proposal consideration under this initiative must submit a completed Project Concept Proposal Worksheet (Appendix A) **no later than close of business Tuesday, June 30, 2020.**

Discipline representatives to the Steering Committee will review and evaluate submitted proposals during the month of July. The Steering Committee's recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration.

## Eligibility

Only NVERS-affiliated project sponsors within the eligible Urban Area sub-region may submit a project concept proposal under this initiative. The Steering Committee must have a substantial role in the execution of the proposal and not simply be a pass-through funding mechanism. Funding must comply with all grant terms and conditions. Projects must be sub-regional in nature and build or enhance capacity/capability across Northern Virginia jurisdictions and disciplines.

## Additional Guidance

To be considered for review by the Steering Committee, all fields in the proposal worksheet must be completed. NVERS staff are available to provide technical assistance for any project sponsors who require it. Project sponsors may submit multiple proposals; however, each proposal must be submitted separately to receive consideration.

The Steering Committee welcomes innovative proposals that bolster the region's preparedness and response capabilities. While all Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)-funded projects must have a nexus to terrorism preparedness, the Steering Committee is particularly interested in proposals that also support the Northern Virginia region's ability to mitigate, prepare for, and/or respond to incidents involving infectious diseases. The Steering Committee is encouraging, but not limiting, project concept proposals that adhere to the guidelines below:

- Capabilities that bolster COVID-19 response (e.g., personal protective equipment, public information campaigns, comprehensive outbreak technology solutions, etc.);
- Projects without significant sustainment costs;
- Projects that are not overly burdensome on subject matter experts;
- Projects that do not involve in-person trainings or large gatherings; and
- Additional support for current sustainment projects related to infectious disease preparedness.

## Proposal Evaluation

### A. Gated Criteria

1. Completed Project Concept Proposal Worksheet submitted by an eligible project sponsor no later than close of business on Tuesday, June 30, 2020.
2. Project proposal is sub-regional in nature, supporting capacity and/or capabilities across Northern Virginia jurisdictions and/or disciplines.

### B. Evaluative Criteria

1. Project proposal addresses an identified preparedness/response gap.
2. Project proposal articulates a clear purpose and end-state/outcome.
3. Project proposal is regionally applicable and has been socialized with discipline leadership and/or Steering Committee representatives wherever possible.
4. Project proposal has a significant impact on the ability of Northern Virginia to collectively mitigate, prepare for, and/or respond to infectious disease outbreaks such as COVID-19.
5. Project proposal articulates a reasonable, plausible budget.

6. For new/non-continuation proposals, the project will not require significant annual sustainment costs.

### **Instructions**

Project sponsors should completely fill out each field of the Project Concept Proposal Worksheet (Appendix A) and email the completed form to [fy20@nvers.org](mailto:fy20@nvers.org) by close of business on Tuesday, June 30, 2020.