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RFI SOLICITATION NUMBER: RFI-WCC-2020-001

IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH CASE STUDIES: APPROACHES TO ADVANCE RESPECTFUL WOMAN-CENTERED CARE

The purpose of the amendment is to:

- (1) Provide responses to questions to interested parties in Attachment 1; and,
- (2) In response to questions and comments, we have made revisions to clarify the solicitation and have extended the timeline.

Summary of amendments:

- We are accepting submissions to develop case descriptions OR case studies. The parameters of the case study have remained the same. Case descriptions have been added as an additional option. Applicants may only propose a case description OR a case study in one application. Please see RFI for details on the definitions and the differences between the two.
- If you previously submitted a response you may continue to revise and resend. We will accept applications on a rolling basis, please note **the first round will close on October 15, 2020.**
- The new deadline for questions is **October 8, 2020.**
- HEARD is planning to host a Question & Answer session **on October 9, 2020.** Applicants are requested to send an email if interested to attend. Time and call-in information will be shared at a later stage.
- The new deadline for applications: Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and submissions are due on a rolling basis, beginning on October 15, 2020, in accordance with the schedule below and indicated in the updated RFI.

Schedule of Due Dates For Applications:

October 15, 2020, 5:00 PM (EDT)

November 30, 2020, 5:00 PM (EST)

January 15, 2021, 5:00 PM (EST)

March 1, 2021, 5:00 PM (EST)

- RFI expiration date and time: **March 1, 2021, 5:00 PM (EST)**

The RFI is amended as follows:

- 1) In **SECTION 1 PURPOSE OF THE RFI** (while the purpose remains the same) the text has been refined and replaced with the following:

“The HEARD Project seeks to support the identification and documentation of significant learning opportunities that can inform the implementation of program and policy interventions that advance the provision of respectful care in woman-centered health services. The purpose of this RFI is to solicit short applications that may receive funding to develop a learning **case description or case study.**”

- 2) Delete **SECTION 2 IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH (IR) CASE STUDY OBJECTIVES** have been refined and replaced with the following text:

“2. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The general learning objectives of this solicitation remain the same, but have been updated to include the production of ***either a learning case description or case study*** that will:

- a. Document experience from planned, existing or recently completed implementation efforts – successful or not – intended to increase the evidence base around how to deliver woman-centered respectful care approaches in low- and middle-income country (LMIC) settings;
- b. Engender collaboration within implementation science partnerships to document and assess how implementation approaches can be sustained, and replicated in other contexts;
- c. Leverage learning to engage stakeholders in the better use of data and evidence informing respectful care program strategies and policy advocacy.”

- 3) Add **SECTION 3. KEY TERMS & DEFINITIONS**

- 4) In **SECTION 4. DESCRIPTION OF SUCCESSFUL RFI SUBMISSIONS** has been refined and the text has been replaced with the following:

“Successful RFI applicants will describe learning opportunities and value in terms of how the analysis will contribute to broader understanding of approaches, challenges and opportunities associated with advancing respectful care program design, implementation, scalability, sustainability and replicability.

Applicants must demonstrate managerial, financial, and administrative institutional capacity to achieve the results outlined in this RFI and the ability to mobilize modest cost share resources (20%) to contribute to the development of the case study or case example. Types of cost share contribution may include volunteer services, donated employee’s time, donated supplies, donated equipment, donated space, project co-funding, cash contribution.”

- 5) In **SECTION 5. TIME FRAME AND AWARD AMOUNT** delete the first two sentences and replace with the following:

“The RFI applicants selected to move to the next round will be notified by email. Decisions on applicants selected to the next (full application) phase will happen within one (1) month from submission due date. Case studies are expected to be completed within 6 months or less; and case descriptions are expected to be completed within 3 months or less.”

- 6) In **SECTION 6.1. ELIGIBILITY** delete points 1-3 and replace with the following:

1. “IAP applicants interested in **case description development** must have an implementation platform and programming (planned, previously implemented or ongoing) relevant to respectful

care and be an organization that operates in multiple LMIC settings/countries. Applicants interested in **case study development** must demonstrate active partnership between an IAP (global or local) and a relevant local research institution in the proposed LMIC setting;

2. Applicants must have established financial management, internal control systems, and policies and procedures that comply with established U.S. Government standards, laws, and regulations; and;
3. Applicants must have or be able to secure a minimum of 20% of the total resources needed for the IR case study as a cost-share contribution from non-US Government funds. Types of cost share contribution may include volunteer services, donated employee's time, donated supplies, donated equipment, donated space, project co-funding, cash contribution."

7) In **SECTION 6.2 GENERAL INFORMATION** delete the first two bullet points and replace with the following:

- "Due date for questions about updated RFI: **October 8, 2020, 5:00 PM (EDT)**
- Questions and Answers Virtual Session: tentatively scheduled on **October 9, 2020**. Time to be confirmed. If you are interested in this Q&A session, please email us at heard@urc-chs.com
- Due date for applications: **Responses will be accepted on a rolling basis, starting on October 15, 2020, in accordance with the schedule below:**
- Schedule of due dates for short applications:
 - October 15, 2020, 5:00 PM (EDT)**
 - November 30, 2020, 5:00 PM (EST)**
 - January 15, 2021, 5:00 PM (EST)**
 - March 1, 2021, 5:00 PM (EST)**
- RFI Expiration Date: **March 1, 2021, 5:00 PM EST**
- One organization can submit a maximum of **one (1) application to Case Study Development**, and **one (1) application to Case Description Development**. Organizations cannot apply for both a case study and case description in the same application."

Delete: "Questions about the RFI must be written in English or French and emailed heard@urc-chs.com by September 23, 2020, 5:00 PM (EDT).

Responses to the RFI must be submitted in English or French and emailed to heard@urc-chs.com by October 2, 2020, 5:00 PM (EDT)."

And insert the following:

"Questions about amended RFI must be submitted by email to heard@urc-chs.com by **October 8, 2020, 5:00 PM (EDT)**

Responses to the RFI must be submitted by email to heard@urc-chs.com, starting on **October 15, 2020, 5:00 PM (EDT) by the due dates indicated in the due dates schedule above.**"

8) Rename **SECTION 6.3** from REQUIRED OUTLINE AND CONTENT OF THE RFI RESPONSE TO "**REQUIRED CONTENT AND SCORING OF THE RFI RESPONSE**"; delete points 1-4 and insert the following:

1. **Learning Opportunity Overview** (worth 10 points). In this section, describe the opportunity to create a case study or case description. This includes a detailed description of the intervention/approach,

the theory of change (including contextual factors that influence implementation), the origin of the intervention development, stakeholders involved, geographic location, and timeline;

2. **Value of Learning** (worth 10 points). In this section present the potential value of the case description or case study. Describe how the learning would add to global knowledge base around opportunities and challenges related to designing, implementing respectful care efforts –including how your case description or case study would contribute to global learning and inform future implementation strategies, programming investments, donor priorities, and local stakeholder engagement.
3. **Design and Methods** (worth 10 points). In this section, describe the aspects of the promising approach(es) proposed to be studied, and other existing data or information sources that can be leveraged for the case study or case example development. Sources of information may include existing program documentation and monitoring and evaluation data; strategic plans and agendas, for example. Explain how learning from the case study or case description proposed would be embedded into the existing implementation platform and how this award would complement, (and not duplicate), existing resources for implementation and learning;
4. **Partnership Description** (worth 10 points). Describe the technical capacity of the partner institutions to implement either the proposed case study or case description. Please also describe linkages to policy and advocacy institutions and champions supporting (or who could be supporting) activities that advance respectful care.

For those seeking support for case study development, propose a partnership that includes at a minimum: an implementation assistance provider or service delivery partner lead and a local research institution.

In **Point 5. Institutional Capacity** delete “maximum 1 page”

In **Point 6. Cost Share** delete “maximum 1 paragraph”

9) In **SECTION 7.1 RFI REVIEW PROCESS** delete its content insert the following:

“Responses will be accepted by email on a rolling basis in accordance with the schedule indicated in Section 6.2 and reviewed within one (1) month of applications’ respective submission due date (see schedule for due dates). A Technical Review Committee will review and evaluate the organizations’ RFI responses taking into account the eligibility criteria (Section 6.1) and the review criteria (Section 6.3) found in this RFI.”

List of Attachments:

Attachment 1: Questions submitted by interested organizations regarding RFI No. WCC-2020-001

Attachment 2: Amended RFI No. WCC-2020-001