

GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE**System Requirements Checklists**

AGENCY: General Accounting Office.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The General Accounting Office (GAO) is concurrently issuing three checklists to be used as tools to help agencies review their financial management systems and assist auditors with their responsibilities under the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act (FFMIA) of 1996. The first checklist, the *Framework For Federal Financial Management System Checklist* (GAO/AIMD-98-21.2.1), is based on the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP) framework document and is primarily a reference source rather than a standard-setting document. The other two documents reflect the system requirements defined by JFMIP and are the: *Core Financial System Checklist* (GAO/AIMD-98-21.2.2), and *Inventory System Checklist* (GAO/AIMD-98-21.2.4). Although these checklists are not required to be used by agencies, this notice indicates that the checklists are available from GAO for immediate use.

DATES: June 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the system requirement checklists are available by (1) pick-up at Document Distribution, U.S. General Accounting Office, Room 1100, 700 4th Street, NW. (corner of 4th and G Streets, NW.), Washington, DC; (2) mail from U.S. General Accounting Office, P.O. Box 37050, Washington, DC 20013; (3) phone at 202-512-6000 or FAX 202-512-6061 or TDD 202-512-2537; or (4) on GAO's home page (<http://www.gao.gov>) on the Internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert W. Gramling, 202-512-9406.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FFMIA requires, among other things, that agencies implement and maintain financial management systems that substantially comply with federal financial management systems requirements. These system requirements are detailed in the Financial Management Systems Requirements series issued by JFMIP and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-127, *Financial Management Systems*.

The JFMIP requirements documents identify: (1) a framework for financial management systems, (2) core financial systems requirements, and (3) 16 other systems that support agency operations. To date, JFMIP has issued the framework and core documents, and 7 of the 16 systems (inventory, seized/

forfeited asset, direct loan, guaranteed loan, travel, personnel-payroll, and managerial cost accounting). GAO plans to issue a checklist for each of the JFMIP systems requirements documents. The three checklists being issued in final were initially issued as exposure drafts. Comments received were analyzed and considered.

OMB Circular A-127 and OMB's *Implementation Guidance for the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act (FFMIA) of 1996*, issued September 9, 1997, provide the basis for assessing compliance with the FFMIA requirement of agencies to implement and maintain financial management systems that comply substantially with federal requirements. OMB's guidance provides indicators for chief financial officers and inspectors general to assist them in determining whether the agency's financial management systems substantially comply with federal financial management systems requirements. The annual assurance statement required pursuant to section 4 of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act is one of those indicators. Agencies can use GAO's checklists to help determine annual compliance with section 4 of the Integrity Act.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

[Announcement Number 98051]

Cooperative Agreements for Enhanced State-Based Birth Defect Surveillance and Use of Surveillance Data To Guide Prevention and Intervention Programs**A. Purpose**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 1998 funds for a cooperative agreement program for developing and improving birth defect surveillance; and using surveillance data to develop birth defect prevention programs and activities to improve the access of children born with birth defects to health services and early intervention programs. This program addresses the "Healthy People 2000" priority areas of Substance Abuse, Alcohol and Other Drugs,

Environmental Health, Maternal and Infant Health, and Surveillance and Data Systems.

The purpose of the program is to support the development, implementation, expansion, and evaluation of State-based birth defect surveillance systems; the development and implementation of State-based programs to prevent birth defects; and the development and implementation of activities to improve the access of children with birth defects to health services and early intervention programs. More specifically, the purpose of this program is to assist States:

a. To improve the timeliness of neural tube defect (NTD) surveillance in order to prevent the recurrence of NTD-affected pregnancies among women who have had NTD-affected pregnancies, and to improve the completeness of NTD surveillance in selected areas in order to evaluate progress made in the prevention of occurrent NTDs in the population;

b. To develop and implement methodologies and approaches which will improve or expand the State's capacity to ascertain cases and generate timely population-based data of major birth defects; and

c. To use surveillance data to design, implement and evaluate programs to prevent birth defects and improve the access of children with birth defects to comprehensive, community-based, family-centered care.

B. Eligible Applicants

Assistance will be provided only to State and local public health agencies that are officially recognized as such, including State, local, county, city-county, district, and territorial health departments. Also, universities with formal agreements for working with State or local health departments for carrying out the State's surveillance and surveillance-based research are eligible to apply.

C. Availability of Funds

Approximately \$1,500,000 is available in FY 1998 to fund approximately 10 to 16 awards. It is expected that awards will be made to 3 to 5 States with no birth defect surveillance systems; 3 to 5 States with newly implemented surveillance systems or systems which are only partially operational; and 3 to 5 States with ongoing, operational birth defect surveillance systems. It is expected that awards will range from \$50,000 to \$150,000. It is expected that the awards will begin on or about September 30, 1998, and will be made for a 12-month budget period within a