

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**Federal Open Market Committee;
Domestic Policy Directive of March 22,
2005**

In accordance with § 271.25 of its rules regarding availability of information (12 CFR part 271), there is set forth below the domestic policy directive issued by the Federal Open Market Committee at its meeting held on March 22, 2005.¹

The Federal Open Market Committee seeks monetary and financial conditions that will foster price stability and promote sustainable growth in output. To further its long-run objectives, the Committee in the immediate future seeks conditions in reserve markets consistent with increasing the Federal funds rate to an average of around 23/4 percent.

The vote encompassed approval of the paragraph below for inclusion in the statement to be released shortly after the meeting:

“The Committee perceives that, with appropriate monetary policy action, the upside and downside risks to the attainment of both sustainable growth and price stability should be kept roughly equal. With underlying inflation expected to be contained, the Committee believes that policy accommodation can be removed at a pace that is likely to be measured. Nonetheless, the Committee will respond to changes in economic prospects as needed to fulfill its obligation to maintain price stability.”

By order of the Federal Open Market Committee, April 19, 2005.

Vincent R. Reinhart,

Secretary, Federal Open Market Committee.

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES****Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention****Development of Influenza Surveillance
Networks**

Announcement Type: New.

Funding Opportunity Number:
AA011.

¹ Copies of the Minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee Meeting on March 22, 2005, which includes the domestic policy directive issued at the meeting, are available upon request to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551. The minutes are published in the Federal Reserve Bulletin and in the Board's annual report.

*Catalog of Federal Domestic
Assistance Number:* 93.283.

Key Dates:

Letter of Intent Deadline: May 31,
2005.

Application Deadline: June 27, 2005.

Executive Summary: An influenza pandemic has greater potential than any other naturally occurring infectious disease event to cause large and rapid global and domestic increases in deaths and serious illnesses. Preparedness is the key to substantially reducing the health, social, and economic impacts of an influenza pandemic and other public health emergencies. One component of preparedness involves understanding the impact that annual epidemics of influenza have on the population. These data regarding impact are critical to the development of prevention and control measures such as vaccination policies. Vaccination efforts are the cornerstone of influenza prevention and will be the primary means of mitigating the impact of an influenza pandemic.

The systematic collection of influenza surveillance data over time is necessary to monitor and track influenza virus and disease activity and is essential to understanding the impact influenza has on a country's population. Improving surveillance systems by developing influenza surveillance networks is critical for the rapid detection of new variants, including those with pandemic potential, to contribute to the global surveillance system. Global collaboration, under the coordination of the World Health Organization (WHO), is a key feature of influenza surveillance. WHO established an international laboratory-based surveillance network for influenza in 1948. The network currently consists of 112 National Influenza Center (NIC) laboratories in 83 countries, and four WHO Collaborating Centers for Reference and Research of Influenza (including one located at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). The primary purposes of the WHO network are to detect the emergence and spread of new antigenic variants of influenza, to use this information to update the formulation of influenza vaccine, and to provide as much warning as possible about the next pandemic. This system provides the foundation of worldwide influenza prevention and control.

Monitoring of influenza viruses and providing contributions to the global surveillance system will assure that data used in annual WHO vaccine recommendations are relevant to each country that participates. Increased participation in the global surveillance system for influenza viruses will enhance each country's ability to

monitor severe respiratory illness, to develop vaccine policy, and to help build global and regional strategies for the prevention and control of influenza. Monitoring influenza disease activity is important to facilitate resource planning, communication, intervention, and investigation.

This announcement seeks to support foreign governments through their Ministries of Health or other responsible Ministries for human health in the development or improvement of epidemiologic and virologic influenza surveillance networks. These networks will focus on the systematic collection of virological and epidemiological information for influenza. This support is meant to enhance, and not to supplant, current influenza surveillance activities. Proposals should build upon infrastructure already in place. Preference will be given to countries where resources are currently limited and influenza surveillance is not well established due to lack of resources.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Authority: This program is authorized under sections 301(a) and 307 of the Public Health Service Act, [42 U.S.C. sections 241(a), and 242], as amended.

Purpose: The purpose of the program is to provide support and assistance to foreign governments for the development or improvement of influenza surveillance networks. These networks will focus on the systematic collection of virological and epidemiological information for influenza. Countries applying for support must have an active WHO NIC recognized by WHO. This program addresses the “Healthy People 2010” focus area(s) of Immunization and Infectious diseases.

The objectives of this program are to (1) establish or enhance an active influenza surveillance network that uses standardized data collection instruments, operational definitions, and laboratory diagnostic tests to enhance surveillance for influenza at three or more sites within the country; (2) use the experience gained to expand the surveillance system to include additional sites; (3) improve local laboratory diagnostic capabilities by supporting and enhancing those local laboratories that participate in influenza surveillance; (4) develop educational and training opportunities for local public health practitioners as part of broader efforts to improve public health infrastructure in the region; and (5) improve communications and data exchange between laboratories and epidemiologists in the global influenza surveillance network by expanding the