



Request for Proposals

Inequity and health disparities in the food system: literature survey and gap analysis

Background

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) is a non-profit research and advocacy organization that promotes sustainable farm, food and trade systems. IATP works to integrate sustainability throughout the food and farm system, from the economic wellbeing of farmers and the integrity of the environment to securing universal access to healthy food. IATP identifies the impact trade agreements and policy interventions have on farmers, consumers and the environment, while promoting a fair trade system that supports locally based development, labor and human rights, and democratic institutions. IATP develops alternative economic models that integrate environmental sustainability into rural development.

Purpose

IATP is launching a new initiative focused on food, justice and health. This initiative will examine food systems inequities and how they create health disparities. The goal of the initiative is demonstrate links between inequity of the food system and adverse health outcomes on food systems workers in the production of industrial, processed food and point the way to healthier and more just alternatives.

IATP is commissioning a literature review on the health consequences of racial and economic injustice in relationship to ALL aspects of the food system, including but not limited to diet related outcomes. The review should also examine other health risks associated with living and working along the food chain. Affected populations might include farmer, farm workers, (chicken catchers, tomato workers, other produce harvesters, meat processors, retail food workers, etc) and communities adjacent to factory farms. Also of interest is how economic injustice against those that grow, process, handle, prepare and sell our food undermines their food security.

The purpose of the review is to map the research that is currently available on these topics and the gaps in data that need to be addressed.

The review, therefore, should be supplemented by an analysis of gaps and discuss the merits of different research methodologies especially those that actively involve or are led by communities.

Proposals are due by April 4, 2011. 5pm(EST). Proposal sent after this time will not be reviewed.

Deliverables

IATP requires the following deliverables (in a current MS Word format, where appropriate) to inform decision about the need to update our current emphasis:

- Meet with IATP staff as needed. Phone conferences will be arranged if selected applicants are outside of the Minneapolis/St. Paul.
- Develop research questions in collaboration with the IATP staff.
- Submit literature search methodology and search criteria to the IATP staff for approval.
- Submit a draft literature review for approval in electronic format. The report will include a summary and critical analysis of the literature and program-relevant recommendations.
- Submit a final literature review in both electronic and paper format which includes a summary and critical analysis of the literature and program-relevant recommendations.

Qualifications

- Non-profit organizations (universities, community based organizations, etc) are welcome to apply. IATP will also accept proposals from independent consultant or individuals.
- Significant experience/expertise in applied research and evaluation, preferably in a public health setting, especially in conducting literature reviews.
- Preference will be given to those with knowledge of agriculture food systems, environmental justice or social justice in particular.
- Strong project management skills.
- Demonstrated ability to meet timelines.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

Timeline

Release of RFP: March 4, 2011 by 5pm EST.

Deadline for submission of proposals: April 4, 2011

Proposal Review and candidate short-listing for interview if necessary: April 15, 2011

Interviews, if necessary: April 18, 2011

Successful candidate notified: April 20, 2011

Project start date: May 9, 2011

Project to be completed by: June 20, 2011

Budget

The budget for this project will not exceed \$5,500, including all taxes and disbursements. The selected applicant will enter into a contract for professional services with IATP.

Submission Requirements

The following information must be included in your proposal narrative: (limit 5 pages excluding resumes)

- A detailed plan and description of how and when the requested tasks will be executed
- List of relevant experiences in conducting similar projects
- Samples of written reports, research and evaluation documents
- Resumes of key staff

Documents should be submitted electronically to Lredmond@IATP.org. The subject line should read FJLR Proposal. Email confirmation of the receipt of the proposal will be sent within one business day.

Questions regarding proposed work should be directed to LaDonna Redmond - Lredmond@IATP.org