

June 15, 2012

To: Public Health Professionals
From: Strategic Alliance Team

Subject: Request for Enrollment for Two Year Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Like Training Programme in India

Dear Public Health Professional,

We have pleasure in alerting you about an exciting, public health 'learning' opportunity for enrollment with the **Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) like Training Programme in India**, being launched by the **National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)** in association with the **US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta**.

The **EIS**-like Training Programme in India has been closely modeled on the **EIS** programme in the **US** and is being established under the technical oversight of **CDC Atlanta**. This is a critical, much-needed initiative, expected to equip participants to eventually assume leadership positions in public health.

The **EIS**-like Training Programme in India is a unique, two year programme in applied epidemiology, encompassing both training and field service. The programme focuses on the development of skills in applied epidemiology, by the provision of epidemiologic services under supervision, within field assignments.

Participants shall be designated **EIS Candidates** and shall need to be sponsored by the state and/or be self-sponsored. Sponsored **EIS Candidates** shall be paid full salary and other admissible allowances for the two year training period, by their parent employer.

For more information about **EIS**-like Training Programme, please visit http://nicd.nic.in/Advt_EIS23032011.pdf

In the context of the above, **NCDC** is seeking applications for the enrollment of 12 outstanding public health professionals, for the 2012 **EIS**-like Training Programme in India. 10 of the 12 seats of the **EIS**-like Training Programme are for state-sponsored candidates and two for self-sponsored candidates.

Kindly scroll below to see the detailed enrollment notice for the programme.

We shall be grateful if you could widely circulate details of the same to friends/ colleagues whom you believe to be qualified and interested in enrolling for the programme.

Eligible candidates interested in this opportunity are required to apply in the prescribed application form available at www.sams.co.in to the above email id on or before **July 4, 2012**. Only applications that have been filled in the prescribed application form, shall be considered. All candidates are additionally required to send a printed copy of the application form through

their employer/ sponsor, accompanied by a letter from the same, recommending that the applicant be considered for the **EIS**-like training programme.

We take this opportunity to thank you for your attention and support to this enrollment initiative.

With best regards

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INFORMATION FOR SOLICITING APPLICATIONS FOR

Two Year Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS)

Like Training Programme in India

1. TOTAL SEATS: 12 (*10 of the 12 seats of the **EIS**-like training programme are for state-sponsored candidates* and two for self-sponsored candidates***)

2. ORGANIZATION/ PROGRAMME BACKGROUND:

The **National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)** in collaboration with the **US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Atlanta**, is developing world-class, applied epidemiologists in India, by establishing an **Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) like Training Programme**, modeled on the **US EIS** programme. This is a critical initiative, expected to equip participants to eventually assume leadership positions in public health.

The **US EIS** run by the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta**, is a two year programme, focused on providing hands-on training in epidemiologic service to public health professionals. Trainees, called Officers, engage in outbreak investigation, designing and analyzing epidemiological studies, analysis and evaluation of surveillance data, scientific communication, and other activities in preparation for careers as field epidemiologists.

Many of the **EIS** graduates have become public health leaders at **CDC, WHO**, schools of public health, and other agencies and institutions. **EIS candidates** are on the frontline of

public health, conducting epidemiologic investigations, research, and public health surveillance, both nationally and internationally.

Currently, India does not have an **EIS**-like training programme, either at the Centre or at the States. While there is a dedicated cadre of public health professionals in the **Central Health Service (CHS)** and in some states, most states lack applied epidemiological capacity.

With a view to improving the supply of qualified public health professionals and contributing towards epidemiological capacity development, the proposed **EIS** shall be modelled on the **US EIS** Programme, but adapted to Indian needs. Its objective shall be to develop a pool of trained public health professionals, committed to enhancing the quality of epidemiological services in the country. **EIS**-like training is a joint venture between India and USA aimed at preparing public health professionals for leadership positions in public health at district, state and national levels.

Applications are now being invited for the enrollment of 12 outstanding public health professionals, for the proposed India **EIS**-like training commencing in October 2012. 10 of the 12 seats of the proposed **EIS** have been earmarked for state-sponsored candidates* and two for self-sponsored applicants**. Successful candidate shall be designated **EIS Candidates** for the duration of training.

Please refer to http://nicd.nic.in/Advt_EIS23032011.pdf for the detailed **Compendium of Operational Guidelines** compiled by **NCDC** on the **EIS**-like training programme.

** State-Sponsored: Regular/ Permanent employee of Central/State Health Service or equivalent viz. ESI, Railways, Municipal Corporations, Local Bodies etc.*

*** Self-Sponsored: Candidates not from any of the above said organizations/ institutions.*

3. OUTLINE OF 2012 EIS; DETAILED DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF EIS CANDIDATES:

EIS Candidates shall be placed under the supervision of a Primary Mentor (affiliated with their placement), a Programme Mentor and a co-Mentor (affiliated to **NCDC**) and guided to develop field epidemiologic competencies, subsequent to their selection for the **2012 EIS**. Concurrent evaluation shall be carried out of the **EIS Candidates** by their mentors, supervisors and the **NCDC Director**, based on their direct interactions, as well as on supplementary inputs provided by concerned Subject Matter Experts. Annual evaluation will be conducted by experts at **NCDC**.

EIS Candidates shall be placed in a Public Health programme or central project for their entire two year period with **EIS**. Possible placements include National Health programmes such as the **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)**, the **Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP)**, the **National AIDS Control Programme (NACP)**, the **National Polio Surveillance Programme (NPSP)**, **National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)**, the **Non-Communicable Disease Control Programme** of the **Government of India**, the **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)** and its sub missions, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and its centers, **State Public Health Offices**, and partner institutions like the **WHO** and **UNICEF**.

The **EIS**-like training programme shall encompass both training and field service. The training shall focus on the development of skills in applied epidemiology, by the provision of epidemiologic services under supervision, within field assignments. Classroom instruction through periodic short courses, shall be with the specific purpose of preparing **EIS Candidates** for their field duties.

In summary, the two year calendar shall comprise about two months training at **NCDC** and remaining would be through field placement of **EIS Candidates** in assignments suitable to fulfill prescribed core activities of learning under the supervision of identified mentors and periodic contact courses at the **NCDC**. **CDC Atlanta** shall provide technical support to the **EIS**-like training programme in India.

Development of Epidemiologic Competencies:

The **EIS** shall provide field based learning opportunities to **EIS Candidates** to develop proficiency in important epidemiologic competencies that are needed to do the job of a practicing field epidemiologist. These include:

- (1) Conduct or participate in a field investigation of a potentially serious public health problem that requires a timely response - the officer must lead the investigation;
- (2) Design, conduct, and interpret an epidemiological analysis;
- (3) Analyze data from and evaluate a public health surveillance system;
- (4) Give a public health talk on the officers' original work or in their field of study to an audience outside his/her normal place of work of about an audience of 30 members for a period of 20 minutes at least and answering questions from audience;
- (5) Give a 5-15 minute oral presentation to a scientific audience;
- (6) Create a visual/graphic aid to illustrate scientific findings;
- (7) Write and submit, as first author, a scientific manuscript for a peer-reviewed journal that is cleared for publication by **NCDC**;
- (8) Write and submit, as the primary author, a concise public health update communicating timely information;
- (9) Write and submit, as first author, an abstract;
- (10) Communicate complex scientific concepts to a lay audience including interact with members of the media and develop media brief etc.;
- (11) Provide service to the agency and/or the field of public health. This should however be done in a manner that do not take more than 5% of the time of a candidate, effectively utilizing the officer's service in times of emergency, training, disaster, outbreak or major public health event, rather than routine activities of the institutions which are part of normal portfolio of another person.

4. QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCIES:

Qualifications:

- (1) MBBS and an MD (Public Health) OR
- (2) MD (Clinical/ Para-Clinical) with two years public health experience
- (3) Applicants must be 25-40 years at the time of application
- (4) Applicants for the state-sponsored seats must presently be regular employees of Central/ State Health Service or equivalent (viz. ESI, Railways, Municipal Corporations, Local Bodies, etc.)

If there are not enough candidates satisfying the minimum essential qualifications listed at (1) or (2) above, the following may also be considered:

(1) MBBS with Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical/ Para-Clinical field and three years of public health experience from any recognized institution OR

(2) MBBS from any recognized institution with a minimum of five years of public health experience.

Experience:

(1) Work-experience in Public Health programmes in government and/or non-government sectors in India. Applicants with 2-5 years of PH experience shall be preferred;

(2) Sound understanding of the elements of the Public Health strategy and challenges in its implementation;

(3) Prior publications of scientific work in reputed journals / interest in scientific writing and publication

(4) Research/ project experience in public health field.

Attitude/ Skills:

(1) Strong commitment to a career in public health / epidemiology in India

(2) Flexibility, willingness to work in various programmes, in various places, under various circumstances, including austere field conditions

(3) Comfort using a computer and modern techniques of ICT

(4) Professional maturity, capacity to learn and work independently, response to supervision.

Notes:

(1) All applications shall need to be forwarded and formally nominated by the present employer or sponsor. This shall be evidenced by a Sponsorship Letter from the present employer or sponsor, recommending that the applicant be considered for the **EIS**-like training programme

(2) The Sponsorship Letter shall confirm that the applicant shall be relieved for the two-year training period and allowed to be attached with **NCDC**

(3) In the case of state-sponsored candidates, the letter shall additionally state that the expertise of the successful applicant shall be utilized by the state for the betterment of public health services

(4) All applicants, both state-sponsored and self-sponsored, shall undergo a stringent, competitive process, for selection. Sponsoring / nomination does not automatically guarantee selection for the training programme.

5. COMPENSATION OFFERED:

Sponsored **EIS Candidates** will be paid full salary and other admissible allowances for the two year training period, by their parent employer.

The nominating/ sponsoring agency is expected to utilize the expertise gained by the trainee after completion of the programme towards betterment of public health services.

EIS Candidates shall additionally be supported for procuring text books, scientific journals and course materials through a book allowance of 10,000 rupees annually. Laptops with internet connectivity shall also be provided to all the selected candidates.

6. LOCATION/ PLACEMENT:

EIS Candidates shall be placed in a Central / State public health programmes for the entire two-year period of the 2012 **EIS**. They shall work closely with their primary and other mentors, as assigned, to accomplish the objectives of the programme. **EIS Candidates** shall remain with **NCDC** for the duration of the training i.e. 24 months.

In the event, the primary assignment is unable to provide an opportunity to fulfill one or more training requirements, the **EIS Candidate** may be shifted by **EIS** Coordinators to another assignment (centre/ state), for a suitable period of time.

Potential assignments for placement will be identified before each batch of officers are enrolled in consultation with the **NCDC Director** or his/ her designated staff.

EIS Candidates shall not be placed in the state or programme from which s/he originated. It is expected that most **EIS Candidates** shall be assigned geographically near New Delhi, in proximity to their primary mentors.

While an **EIS Candidate** may be assigned to a programme at **NCDC** or other central agency, s/he is expected to spend maximum possible time in the state to investigate outbreaks, review surveillance data, and conduct other **EIS** activities. In addition, in order to fulfill their **Core Activities of Learning (CALs)**, it may be desirable for the **EIS Candidate** to participate in projects outside her/ his assigned programme.

7. CERTIFICATION:

A certificate of completion shall be awarded to **EIS Candidates** who successfully complete all **CALs**, at the end of the two year training programme. The certificate shall be jointly signed by **CDC Atlanta** and **NCDC, India**.

8. RECOGNITION FOR DNB (EPIDEMIOLOGY):

National Board of Examination (NBE) has in-principle agreed to consider the two year **EIS** to be eligible for **DNB (Epidemiology)**.

9. REFERENCE: EIS Candidates (EISC)

10. Email: eisc@sams.co.in

11. LAST DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:

Eligible candidates interested in this opportunity are required to apply in the prescribed application form available at www.sams.co.in to the above email id on or before **July 4, 2012**. Only applications that have been filled in the prescribed application form, shall be considered. All candidates are additionally required to send a printed copy of the application form through their employer/ sponsor, accompanied by a letter from the same, recommending that the applicant be considered for the **EIS**-like training programme.