



World Council of
Anthropological Associations

March 11, 2016

CDC Foundation
55 Park Place NE, Suite 400
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
USA

Re: Support Letter for the American Anthropological Association Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Organizing Committee of the World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) to express our support for the American Anthropological Association's (AAA) proposed "Social Mobilization Platform for Global Public Health Crisis Response". As a collaborating partner, we wish to express our full and unequivocal support for this proposal.

The WCAA is an international organization that was founded in 2004 and that serves to coordinate the activities of over 50 anthropological associations around the globe. Its mission includes promoting cooperation and the generation and sharing of anthropological data and knowledge. The WCAA network provides a way of connecting with anthropologists around the world, thus bringing to the AAA platform a way of accessing critical resources. For example, the WCAA could facilitate contact and coordination with the local anthropological associations in an area where there is a public health crisis. The WCAA holds its conferences jointly with national and international anthropological associations, and works closely to support its member associations when needed. Thus, in its 12 years of existence it has been active in establishing strong relationships with its membership and as a result it has a prominent and well-supported global profile.

The WCAA's allied organization, Antropologos Sem Fronteiras (ASF), seeks to bring specialist expertise in anthropology to bear on local issues through its network and in coordination with the WCAA. While the WCAA works to coordinate activities at the organizational level, ASF provides a platform for connecting with individual specialists and bringing their knowledge directly to a crisis situation in a timely fashion. Although it was established only in 2013, ASF's alliance with the WCAA means that it has strong networks to draw upon.

Through the WCAA and ASF, the social mobilization platform would be able to access researchers who already have in-depth knowledge of the crisis area and who would be able to

quickly produce research reports and briefs, conduct in-depth data analysis as the data becomes available, contribute to program evaluations, and participate in long-term strategic planning and assessment. These two organizations would also be able to facilitate planning conferences on the ethnological aspects of public health crises and interventions, in conjunction with the AAA.

The WCAA has worked closely with the other project partners (the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences and the AAA) and as a result enjoys a robust working relationship with each organisation. This proposal represents a natural extension of those relations, and furthermore, it is precisely the type of project that the WCAA was originally envisioned to undertake. Therefore, the participation of the WCAA in this project should improve project outcomes notably, while at the same time strengthening the WCAA in its role as an international coordinating body.

With its holistic approach and integrated and critical perspective on culture, anthropology offers an important, qualitative addition to the understanding of public health emergencies. In addition, anthropologists enjoy a high degree of local knowledge that allows them to act as cultural brokers in a crisis, when effective communication and timely interventions are essential. The merging of theory and practice in medical anthropology is well-developed and as a result anthropologists are already equipped to play an active role as part of a multifactorial response to outbreaks and other crises.

This proposal represents an exciting opportunity to foster collaboration between the AAA, WCAA, ASF, and the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences. We look forward to participating in this undertaking and to seeing the world anthropological community contribute more effectively to global responses to public health crises.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, sincerely,



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