FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

A number of questions are frequently asked by readers of the Global Development Alliance (GDA) Annual Program Statement (APS). While nearly all of these questions are already answered in the text of the GDA APS, we have compiled the questions in one place for ease of reference. If you have a question that is not listed here, please contact gda@usaid.gov.

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A. CONCEPT PAPERS

1. WHAT FORMAT SHOULD WE USE WHEN SUBMITTING A CONCEPT PAPER?

Applicants must use the Concept Paper Template at www.usaid.gov/gda/gda-resources and follow the directions and requirements set forth in that template.

2. IS THERE A DEADLINE FOR CONCEPT PAPERS?

Concept papers must be submitted before the closing date specified in the GDA APS. If applicants are responding to an addendum to the GDA APS, concept papers must be submitted before the deadline(s) specified in the addendum.

3. WHERE DO WE SUBMIT OUR CONCEPT PAPER?
Applicants are required to submit concept papers to the USAID Mission, Bureau or Independent Office (Mission/B/IO) with which they seek to build a GDA. See www.usaid.gov/gda/gda-resources for Mission/B/IO points of contact.

After a concept paper is reviewed, applicants will receive instructions on whether or not to provide additional materials, engage in further alliance development with USAID, and/or proceed with a full application. Do NOT submit a full application unless specifically invited to do so by USAID. If invited to submit a full application, applicants will be instructed where to send the application.

**4. IF WE PLAN TO SUBMIT A CONCEPT PAPER, MUST WE HAVE A PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNER – AS PRIVATE SECTOR IS DEFINED IN THE GDA APS?**

Yes. The applicant must have a private sector partner OR be a private sector entity as defined in the GDA APS. See Appendix I of the GDA APS for the definition of private sector.

**5. DOES THE ALLIANCE HAVE TO BE FINALIZED AT THE TIME A CONCEPT PAPER IS SUBMITTED?**

Concept papers should reflect extensive private sector engagement and collaboration, including communication and collaboration between USAID and the private sector partner(s).

USAID will closely examine the nature and level of private sector engagement and commitment. Letters of support from prospective private sector partners are required and serve as indicators of such engagement and commitment. In addition, private sector resource commitments should be clear and the concept paper should demonstrate how the 1:1 private sector leverage requirement is being met.

However, proposed alliances do not have to be finalized at the time a concept paper is submitted. In fact, alliances typically evolve significantly after a concept paper is reviewed and the GDA APS process is designed to support such evolution. Applicants should remain open to continued co-creation and possible changes to the proposed alliance.

**6. CAN AN ORGANIZATION SUBMIT A CONCEPT PAPER PRIOR TO SECURING RESOURCE COMMITMENTS FROM PROSPECTIVE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS, IN HOPES THE CONCEPT PAPER WILL RECEIVE A FAVORABLE REVIEW AND THAT REVIEW CAN BE USED TO SEEK AND SECURE PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE LEVERAGE REQUIREMENT?**

As noted in the concept paper template, USAID is under no obligation to entertain or review a concept paper that does not meet the 1:1 private sector resource requirement.

In fact, it is highly likely that any such concept paper will be rejected as having failed to meet the requirements under the GDA APS.
The GDA APS is NOT a matching grants program or a “fundraising” program. The GDA APS is a private sector engagement program.

As discussed in the GDA APS, concept papers should demonstrate significant collaboration with the private sector. The concept paper should also reflect and demonstrate clear contribution commitments from the private sector sufficient to meet the 1:1 private sector resource requirement.

If a prospective applicant is having a difficult time effectively engaging the private sector and securing such commitments, the applicant should feel free to contact the USAID Mission/B/IO with which it is seeking to build the alliance or the GDA APS Activity Manager at gda@usaid.gov.

Note: Private sector contributions and resources, as well as the specific nature of the proposed alliance, may continue to develop after submission of a concept paper. Applicants should remain open to continued co-creation and possible changes to the proposed alliance.

**B. FUNDING AND LEVERAGE**

**7. DOES THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS (GP) OFFICE OF THE CENTER FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS (CTP) PROVIDE ANY SORT OF CORE FUNDING, MATCHING FUNDING OR INCENTIVE FUNDING IN SUPPORT OF THIS GDA APS?**

No. Funding for alliances is provided by the Mission/B/IO with which you are seeking to partner and collaborate. While GP, or other offices in CTP, may occasionally elect to build and develop an alliance consistent with GP’s programming priorities and objectives, GP does not provide a central pool of funds to support the GDA APS, match Mission/B/IO funding, or incentivize Mission/B/IO funding. Under the GDA APS, funding and implementation of partnerships comes directly from the relevant USAID Mission/B/IOs.

**8. WHEN DO USAID RESOURCES BECOME AVAILABLE?**

USAID funding only becomes available to an applicant if and after an award agreement is finalized. The time between submission of a concept paper and the issuance of an award can vary significantly due to a wide range of variables. Applicants should discuss prospective timelines with the Mission, Bureau or Independent Office with which they are seeking to build an alliance.

In addition, USAID Missions and other operating units typically do not receive current fiscal year program funds until late spring, depending on the timing of appropriations by the US Congress. This may impact the time needed to negotiate the assistance award. In some cases, Missions/B/IOs may have multi-year funding or carry-over funding, in which case funds might be available earlier in the fiscal year.
9. IS USAID FUNDING FULLY AVAILABLE AT THE OUTSET OF THE PROJECT OR IS IT DISBURSED OVER THE TIMELINE ESTABLISHED FOR THE PROJECT?

If USAID makes an award to an entity implementing the alliance, the agreement officer negotiating the terms of the award agreement will determine, subject to funding availability, and with the award recipient, the appropriate timing for disbursement of funds from USAID. Most of USAID’s programs are incrementally funded on a year-by-year basis (subject to available funding) until the award is fully funded. USAID expects that funded programs may last from 12 to 60 months.

10. CAN PRIVATE SECTOR FUNDING INTENDED FOR EQUITY INVESTMENTS COUNT AS LEVERAGED PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCES THAT COUNT TOWARD THE 1:1 PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCE REQUIREMENT?

Please refer to Appendix I of the GDA APS 2016 GDA APS. In addition, even if the funding intended for equity investment(s) is not counted toward the 1:1 private sector resource requirement, the existence of the funding and the planned investments might increase the potential impact of the alliance and or the feasibility of achieving the intended results of the alliance. As a result, the proposed alliance might be of greater interest to USAID compared to alliances that did not have funding intended for equity investments. Additionally, an alliance involving equity investments might be evaluated to have better scalability or potential for replication.

11. MUST THE LEVEL OF FUNDING FOR EQUITY INVESTMENTS SATISFY THE 1:1 PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCE LEVERAGING REQUIREMENT REGARDLESS OF THE LEVEL OF OTHER PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCES CONTRIBUTED TO THE ALLIANCE?

If the funding for equity investments is the only source of private sector resources being provided, then the level of funding intended for equity investment must actually be five times the level of the USG contribution in order to count toward meeting the private sector resource leveraging requirement. See Appendix I of the GDA APS.

If the equity investors, or other private sector partners, are providing resources beyond funding intended for equity investments, then those other resources would count toward the 1:1 private sector leverage requirement. If those resources are sufficient to meet the 1:1 requirement, then additional resources intended for equity investments would not need to meet the 5:1 standard but would simply increase the overall level of private sector leverage.

However, if the private sector leverage other than funding intended for equity investments does not equal or exceed the 1:1, then the funding intended for equity investments would have to be five times as great as the balance of USAID funding. For example, if USAID was providing $1M and the private sector leverage not intended for equity investments totaled $500K, then the balance of USAID funding would be $500K ($1,000,000 - $500,000). In this example, the funding intended for equity investments would have to be $2.5M or more.
12. **ARE LOANS CONSIDERED LEVERAGED PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCES? CAN FUNDING MEANT FOR LOANS COUNT TOWARD THE 1:1 PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCE REQUIREMENT?**

Funding intended for loans can be considered as private sector leverage. See Appendix I of the GDA APS.

If the funding intended for loans is the only source of private sector resources being provided, then the level of funding intended for loans must actually be five times the level of the USG contribution in order to count toward meeting the private sector resource leveraging requirement. See Appendix I of the GDA APS.

If the private sector partners providing the funding for loans, or other private sector partners, are providing resources beyond loan funding, then those other resources would count toward the 1:1 private sector leverage requirement. If those resources are sufficient to meet the 1:1 requirement, then additional resources intended for loans would not need to meet the 5:1 standard but would simply increase the overall level of private sector leverage.

However, if the private sector leverage other than funding intended for loans does not equal or exceed the 1:1, then the funding intended for equity investments would have to be five times as great as the balance of USAID funding. For example, if USAID was providing $1M and the private sector leverage not intended for loans totaled $500K, then the balance of USAID funding would be $500K ($1,000,000 - $500,000). In this example, the funding intended for loans would have to be $2.5M or more.

13. **ALLIANCES SEEK TO LEVERAGE PRIVATE RESOURCES. CAN PUBLIC RESOURCES BE INCLUDED IN ALLIANCES? CAN THEY EVER BE COUNTED TOWARD MEETING THE 1:1 PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCE REQUIREMENT?**

USAID recognizes that there are cases in which public resources might make a critical contribution to the alliance. While such resources can **NOT** be counted toward the 1:1 private sector resource requirement, they can be counted toward the overall level of resources that are mobilized in support of the alliance.

14. **CAN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (PIOS), DONORS, OR HOST COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS (HCGS) BE COUNTED TOWARD MEETING THE 1:1 PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCE LEVERAGING REQUIREMENT?**

USAID recognizes that there are cases where a Public International Organization (PIO), bi/multilateral donor and/or Host Country Government (HCG) act as strategic resource partner(s) and make critical contributions to an alliance. In those cases, USAID will **NOT** count those contributions as part of the private sector resources mobilized and leveraged by the alliance because the contributions are not private in nature and origin as specified in Appendix I of the GDA APS. However, such resources can be counted toward the overall level of resources that are mobilized in support of the alliance.
15. **CAN FUNDS BEING COUNTED AS LEVERAGE TOWARDS THE PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (GDA) COMPONENT OF A PROJECT ALSO BE COUNTED AS COST-SHARE?**

Please see Appendix I of the GDA APS.

16. **DO THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PRIVATE PARTNERS HAVE TO BE ENTIRELY IN CASH, OR CAN THEY ALSO BE IN THE FORM OF SERVICES, EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, ETC.?**

In-kind resources such as services, property, equipment, and supplies are valuable contributions. Alliance proposals must clearly specify what each party is contributing and indicate the estimated cash value of in-kind support. In-kind contributions should also represent new resources available to and necessary for a project. Alliances that offer quantifiable in-kind resources that a project would otherwise have to buy will be more competitive. It is the responsibility of the contributing resource partner to value and verify the contributions. The implementing partner will be called upon to validate and/or assist in tracking resource flows within the alliance.

Valuations of the private sector resource contributions should be grounded in objective measures and meet a “reasonable person” standard, keeping in mind that USAID is a USG agency whose programs are subject to Congressional review and significant public attention and scrutiny. Prospective applicants and partners are encouraged to contact gda@usaid.gov if they have further questions regarding the valuation and tracking of private sector contributions.

17. **DOES THE CASH CONTRIBUTION FROM ALLIANCE PARTNERS HAVE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT OR CAN THE SUMS BE ALLOCATED PERIODICALLY IF SUCH A COMMITMENT IS MADE AMONG THE PARTNERS?**

Private sector resource commitments, including commitments to cash contributions, should be established prior to any award being made to implement activities under an alliance. In addition, the appropriate timing of the actual contributions, whether cash or in-kind, should also be decided among the alliance partners prior to any such award. It is acceptable for partners to provide their funds periodically over the life of the project. However, to qualify as a GDA under this APS, over the life of the partnership, the value of the resources (both in-kind and cash) provided by private partners must equal and preferably should significantly exceed the value of the resources provided by the USG. It is also acceptable for partners to decide to increase their contributions beyond initial commitments and to seek the engagement of additional partners.

18. **IF YOU ARE DOING A REGIONAL PROGRAM WHEREBY INDIVIDUAL MISSIONS CONTRIBUTE TO A PROGRAM, DOES AN ORGANIZATION HAVE TO MEET THE 1:1 LEVERAGING IN EACH COUNTRY OR IN THE TOTAL AGGREGATE OF THE GRANT?**

In the aggregate of the award; therefore, an alliance might have greater than 1:1 leveraging of private sector resources in some countries and less in others.
C. GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

19. WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE AN ALLIANCE IDEA THAT TAKES A REGIONAL APPROACH?

If the proposed activities are truly regional (or global) in scope, prospective applicants should contact the relevant Regional or Technical Bureau at USAID/W.

20. WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE AN ALLIANCE IDEA THAT INVOLVES ACTIVITIES IN MORE THAN ONE COUNTRY?

This depends on how many countries would be involved and if all the countries are within a single region. In general, it is a good idea to reach out to the specific Missions in each of the countries in which you hope to build a GDA. See www.usaid.gov/gda/gda-resources. For alliances involving activities that are truly regional or global in scope, see FAQ #19 above.

21. WHAT DO I DO IF I WANT TO DEVELOP AN ALLIANCE IN A COUNTRY WHERE USAID DOES NOT HAVE A MISSION (E.G. A NON-PRESENCE COUNTRY)?

If the activities of a proposed alliance will be conducted primarily in a country where USAID does not have a presence, it is extremely unlikely that USAID will seek to develop or support such an alliance. While organizations are free to contact the relevant regional mission or regional bureau to explore potential interest, it is certainly preferable to consider alliances for countries in which USAID has a Mission.

D. THE ROLE OF USAID

22. WILL USAID SIMPLY PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PROPOSED ALLIANCE ACTIVITIES OR WILL USAID PARTICIPATE IN THE ALLIANCE IN OTHER WAYS?

The intention of these alliances is to create and build strong working relationships between USAID, the private sector and other partners to the alliance. Co-creation and collaboration between USAID and the private sector is a defining element of a Global Development Alliance. Depending on the objectives to be achieved, the partners involved, and the nature of the work to be done, USAID’s role will vary from alliance to alliance. However, USAID typically seeks a core role in the alliance and its governance. Please see www.usaid.gov/gda/gda-resources for an illustrative list of partner roles and responsibilities.

23. DOES USAID PERFORM THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT?

In general, the organizations that receive an award to implement activities under an alliance will have significant monitoring and evaluation (M&E) responsibilities. USAID’s role in M&E efforts will vary from alliance to alliance. Other partners may have roles in monitoring and evaluation as well. There may also be midterm and final evaluations. All of the above will be negotiated in
the final terms of the award and may be detailed in the MOU. For more information on USAID’s Evaluation Policy and approaches, please see www.usaid.gov/evaluation.

E. AWARD AGREEMENTS AND MOUS

24. **IS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH USAID SIGNED BY ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE OR ONLY WITH THE LEAD PARTNER?**

A Memorandum of Understanding is typically developed and signed by USAID and the core private sector partner(s) under an alliance. In some instances, USAID and the core private sector partner may determine that it makes sense to include other alliance participants in the MOU. This is determined on a case by case basis. See www.usaid.gov/gda/gda-resources.

25. **IS AN AWARD AGREEMENT WITH USAID SIGNED BY ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE OR ONLY ONE OF THE ALLIANCE PARTNERS?**

An award agreement – which is distinct from an MOU – is signed by the entity (e.g. the implementing partner) that is entering into a legal relationship with USAID to execute responsibilities set forth in the award.

26. **HOW IS THE IMPLEMENTING PARTNER’S ROLE DEFINED?**

The implementing partner typically enters into an award agreement with USAID which creates a legal relationship with USAID and sets out the award recipient’s responsibilities in helping conduct activities that advance the goals and objectives of the alliance. The implementing partner may also be included in the MOU (see FAQ #24 above) and sign the MOU if the Parties think it helps further the alliance.

F. FORMS AND ELIGIBILITY

27. **COULD YOU PLEASE SEND ME THE GRANT FORMS FOR THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY?**

The only forms not specifically included in the APS are the SF424, 424a, and 424b. They can be found at: apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15. All other items are to be supplied in a written manner in accordance with the instructions in the APS.

28. **COULD YOU SEND ME ANY RELATED INFORMATION THAT WILL HELP US TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR THE APS?**

For general information on public-private partnerships and the GDA model, please see: www.usaid.gov/gda. If any of the requirements described under this APS (see www.usaid.gov/gda/global-development-alliance-annual-program) are not clear, please contact the GDA APS Activity Manager with specific questions (gda@usaid.gov).
29. WE ARE A LAND-GRANT INSTITUTION; ARE WE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

Yes. Please refer to the Eligibility Criteria in Section VIII of the GDA APS.

30. CAN AN ORGANIZATION SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION FOR THIS APS ANNOUNCEMENT?

Yes. Please make sure that each application is consistent with the guidelines set out in the APS.

31. WHICH COUNTRIES HAVE FEED THE FUTURE, GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVE OR GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTS?

Please refer to the appropriate USAID website:
- www.feedthefuture.gov
- www.ghi.gov
- www.usaid.gov/climate

32. THE APS STATES THAT MISSIONS AND BUREAUS MAY ISSUE SOLICITATIONS FOR THEIR OWN PARTICULAR ALLIANCE-BUILDING ACTIVITIES. WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ON MISSION AND BUREAU SOLICITATIONS?

Some Missions will issue their own Addendum to the GDA APS. Any such addenda will be posted on the Mission website, www.grants.gov and the CTP/GP website. For other USAID competitive grant solicitations please refer to USAID postings at www.grants.gov. Missions overseas and offices within USAID/ Washington post their competitive grant solicitations at that site.

33. IN THE PROPOSAL WE ARE DEVELOPING, ONE OF THE PROPOSED PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS IS A LOCAL FIRM. HOW ARE NON-U.S. PARTNERS VIEWED?

USAID is highly committed to engaging local partners. Non-US organizations and companies can be alliance partners and can contribute resources to an alliance. They can also be direct and sub-recipients of USAID funds. Through consultations with the relevant USAID Mission, an applicant under this APS can confirm the eligibility of proposed alliance partners. If a non-U.S. partner is being proposed as a recipient of USAID funds for a program outside of its own country, please seek guidance from the relevant USAID Mission/B/IO.

34. IN THE APS, ARE THERE ANY REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE USE OF VOLUNTEERS TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR PROJECT?

No. USAID encourages the integration and utilization of highly skilled volunteers in program implementation.

35. CAN VOLUNTEER HOURS BE COUNTED TOWARD THE 1:1 PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCE REQUIREMENT?

While USAID recognizes that various types of volunteers can add value to the implementation of an alliance, the value of volunteer time typically does not count toward meeting the 1:1
private sector resource leveraging requirement unless it is provided by employees or technical consultants who work for or with one of the private sector institutions listed in Appendix I the GDA APS. If an organization wishes to seek an exception to this practice, the organization would have to provide reliable objective data capable of supporting a clear and specific valuation of the services to be rendered by the volunteers, being sure to account for known or likely variations in the expertise, experience and performance of the various volunteers. However, exceptions are highly unlikely.

36. DOES THIS APS INCLUDE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES OR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES? SHOULD APPLICANTS ADDRESS IN THEIR PROPOSALS HOW THEY WILL INCLUDE THIS VULNERABLE POPULATION WITHIN THEIR PROPOSED PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES?

Yes, USAID welcomes applications for alliances under this APS that demonstrate sustainable approaches to including people with disabilities or underserved communities in the Agency’s assistance activities. This APS fully supports USAID’s Disability Policy and policy directives which state that all of USAID funded programs will not discriminate against people with disabilities and will work to ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities in their program and activities. USAID is also very interested in partnerships that address development challenges facing women and girls, and youth generally. In addition, all new construction and major renovations to existing infrastructure that are funded by USAID must be made accessible for people with disabilities. For more information, refer to the USAID disability website at: www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/democracy-human-rights-and-governance/protecting-human-rights/disability and www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment.

37. CAN A CORPORATION USE THIS APS TO ENTER INTO A PARTNERSHIP WITH USAID?

Yes. Corporations are encouraged to contact the GDA APS Activity Manager (gda@usaid.gov) as well as the USAID Mission, Bureau or Independent Office with which the corporation seeks to build a partnership.

38. IF WE HAVE APPLIED FOR A GDA BEFORE, OR RECEIVED A GDA AWARD PREVIOUSLY, CAN WE STILL APPLY UNDER THE CURRENT GDA APS?

Past applicants are welcome to apply. Alliance partners that were funded under previous GDA APSs and RFAs are also eligible to apply.

G. DEVELOPMENT CREDIT AUTHORITY (DCA) AND GDAS

39. ARE DCAS CONSIDERED GDAS?

No. While DCA activities might be conducted as a complement to activities being conducted under a GDA, the DCA program is a distinct program. For more information on DCA, please visit: www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/economic-growth-and-trade/development-credit-authority-putting-local-wealth-work.

DCA partial credit guarantees and/or DCA activities can complement activities being conducted under an alliance. Typically, the value of the guarantees would not count toward the USG contribution to the GDA and would generally not raise the level of private sector resources the applicant must leverage and mobilize under the alliance. On the other hand, if USAID provides funding to support activities aimed at fostering the success of the DCA partial credit guarantees, and such activities were deemed part of the alliance, the funding would be counted as part of the USG contribution to the GDA and would thus raise the level of private sector resources required to meet the 1:1 private sector leverage requirement.

Note: USAID is exploring various ways of applying DCA and GDA approaches in mutually-reinforcing ways. Organizations interested in advancing such efforts are encouraged to contact the GDA APS Activity Manager at gda@usaid.gov.

41. **CAN LOANS THAT RESULT FROM A DCA BE COUNTED AS LEVERAGE?**

As noted in Appendix I of the GDA APS, loans arising from a DCA typically cannot be counted as leverage. However, USAID is continuously exploring various ways of applying DCA and GDA approaches in mutually-reinforcing ways. Such efforts might identify basis for selective exceptions or innovations with regard to what should constitute leverage in programs involving complementary uses of the DCA and GDA approaches. Organizations interested in such matters are encouraged to contact the GDA APS Activity Manager at gda@usaid.gov.

42. **IS THE DUE DILIGENCE CONDUCTED FOR A DCA THE SAME AS THE DUE DILIGENCE USAID CONDUCTS WITH REGARD TO PROSPECTIVE ALLIANCE PARTNERS?**


**H. DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION VENTURES AND GDAS**

43. **WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN USAID’S DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION VENTURES PROGRAM AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCES?**

The Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) program is a separate and distinct program at USAID. More information can be found at www.usaid.gov/div. For directions on how to apply to the DIV program, please see www.usaid.gov/div/apply/how-to. Application under the DIV
program does not preclude application under the GDA APS, nor does application under the GDA APS preclude application under the DIV program.