

AIDS Institute Grant and Procurement Unit

Title: Solicitation of Interest #21-0007– Hepatitis C (HCV) Learning Collaborative for Drug Treatment Programs

AGENCY: New York State Department of Health, AIDS Institute and Health Research Inc.

Contract Number: TBD

Contract Term: 4/1/2022-3/31/2024

Date of Issue: November 30, 2021

Due Date/Time: December 16, 2021 4:00PM

County(ies): All NYS counties, except NYC (Staten Island, Queens, Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn)

Classification: Medical & Health Care (usually)

Opportunity Type: Grant or notice of funds availability

Description:

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute (NYSDOH AI) and Health Research, Inc. (HRI) announce the opportunity for opioid treatment programs and outpatient programs, certified by New York State (NYS) Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) and located throughout New York State (NYS) outside of New York City (NYC), to receive support to participate in a two-year hepatitis C virus (HCV) Learning Collaborative aimed at building capacity to provide onsite HCV testing (antibody screening and HCV RNA testing) and linkage to care activities for clients living with HCV.

To achieve the World Health Organization (WHO) goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a major public health threat by 2030, concerted efforts are needed to ensure access to timely HCV screening, diagnosis, and treatment for all people with HCV. The NYS HCV Elimination Task Force identified people who use drugs (PWUD) and drug treatment programs as priority populations and settings in the work towards eliminating HCV in NYS.

Drug Treatment Programs play an important role in the elimination of HCV in NYS, by providing addiction treatment services to thousands of individuals each year. Many people infected with HCV have co-occurring substance use disorders (i.e., injection drug use-IDU). Among new HCV cases reported in 2019, in NYS (excluding NYC), 72% of those with known risk factors had IDU as the risk. The increase in opioid use in NYS has resulted in an increase in the number of new HCV cases reported. Discharge data (2017) from NYS OASAS shows that 51% and 15% of clients discharged from opioid treatment programs and outpatient programs, respectively, were current or former PWUD.

While highly effective HCV treatment is available, uptake in PWUD and patients on opioid substitution therapy remains low despite clinical guidelines recommending treatment for all patients. A 2018 survey of the HCV infrastructure in NYS OASAS licensed facilities found most programs do not provide HCV testing onsite and very few offered HCV treatment onsite.

Minimum Qualifications

Organizations applying for this funding must meet all the following criteria:

- Applicant must be a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3);
- Applicant must be certified by New York State (NYS) Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to provide outpatient and/or opioid treatment services as listed on the OASAS website: <https://oasas.ny.gov/providers/program-certification>;
- Applicant must operate an outpatient or opioid treatment program in one of the following regions of NYS: Central NY, Capital District, Finger Lakes, Long Island – Nassau County, Long Island – Suffolk County, Lower Hudson Valley, Upper Hudson Valley, North Country, Southern Tier, or Western NY;
- Applicant must meet the minimum number of unique clients served in 2019 based on program type:
 - Outpatient treatment programs must have served at least 400 unique clients in 2019.
 - Opioid treatment programs must have served at least 300 unique clients in 2019; and
- Applicant must submit a signed Agency Executive Director Attestation.

Expected Activities

Funded organizations will actively participate in a two-year learning collaborative aimed at building capacity to provide onsite HCV testing (antibody screening and HCV RNA testing) and linkage to care activities for clients living with HCV.

Funded programs will be expected to:

- Establish a process to identify clients in need of HCV testing and/or linkage to care;
- Develop policies and procedures for HCV testing;
- Implement universal HCV testing onsite;
- Provide appropriate counseling messages based on HCV testing results;
- Establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with at least one HCV provider for the purposes of linking clients to HCV care and treatment;
- Develop policies and procedures to effectively link clients to HCV care and treatment;
- Conduct linkage to care activities for clients diagnosed with HCV and track outcomes; and
- Evaluate and report the outcomes of HCV testing and linkage to care activities.

Funded organizations will also be expected to:

1. Participate in a virtual launch meeting of the collaborative;
2. Assess organizational infrastructure to support HCV services (e.g., policies, practices, services, etc.);
3. Participate in monthly learning collaborative calls;
4. Participate in coaching sessions;
5. Participate in quarterly webinars with subject matter experts;
6. Collect and submit data on a set of key measures to monitor and evaluate the success of the collaborative;
7. Participate in a virtual closing meeting to share overall and program specific successes, challenges and final data outcomes; and
8. Submit final project report.

Award Details:

The total amount of funding available for this solicitation is \$500,000 per year. It is anticipated that available funding will support up to ten (10) awards. Annual awards will not exceed \$50,000. Funding will be distributed evenly to each program. Organizations may apply for more than one region. A separate application must be submitted for each region.

Region	Amount
Central NY: Cayuga, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, and St. Lawrence	\$50,000
Capital District: Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington	\$50,000
Finger Lakes: Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates	\$50,000
Long Island – Nassau County	\$50,000
Long Island – Suffolk County	\$50,000
Lower Hudson Valley: Rockland and Westchester	\$50,000
Upper Hudson Valley: Orange, Putnam, Dutchess, and Ulster	\$50,000
North Country: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, and Hamilton	\$50,000
Southern Tier: Broome, Chenango, Chemung, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Tompkins, and Tioga.	\$50,000
Western NY: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming	\$50,000

Funding is subject to availability and awarded without assurance of continued or subsequent funding. Funding for this project is contingent on the availability of federal funds and the

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number of eligible applicants that respond to the advertisement. **This advertisement is not a guarantee or promise of funding.**

The Department reserves the right to withdraw this solicitation and/or issue a competitive procurement for this project if the number of interested and eligible parties exceed that which can be reasonably accommodated by available funds.

How to Apply:

Interested eligible organizations should submit the following information: 1) SOI Cover Sheet (available under "Documents" tab), 2) Completed Project Proposal form (available under "Documents" tab), and 3) Completed Project Checklist (available under "Documents" tab) with all supporting documentation requested. If possible, submit all required documentation together in one pdf file. If you need to send separate documents, please make sure the project title is listed in the header/name of each file. Please submit these documents via email to AIGPU@health.ny.gov no later than 4:00 pm ET on 12/16/2021.

An internal review will determine eligibility. All eligible organizations will be included in the funding formula.

Minority Owned Sub-Contracting Goal: 15%
Women Owned Sub-Contracting Goal: 15%
Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Contracting Goal: 0%
Disadvantaged Owned Sub-Contracting Goal: 0%

Contact Information

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Submit to contact: NYS Department of Health
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