

AIDS Institute Grant and Procurement Unit

Title: Solicitation of Interest #23-0013 – Hepatitis C (HCV) Learning Collaborative for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Programs

AGENCY: Health, NYS Dept. of
AIDS Institute

Contract Number: TBD

Contract Term: 4/1/2024-3/31/2026

Date of Issue: 1/12/2024

Due Date/Time: 2/27/2024 at 4:00 PM ET

County(ies): All NYS counties

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) 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 substance use disorder treatment programs as a priority population and key setting in the work towards eliminating HCV in NYS.

Substance use disorder 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 2021, in NYS (excluding NYC), 74% of those with known risk factors indicated injection drug use and 73% indicated other non-injection drug use. The increase in opioid use in NYS has resulted in an increase in the number of new HCV cases reported. Discharge data (2021) from NYS OASAS shows that 47% and 11% of clients discharged from opioid treatment programs and outpatient programs, respectively, were current or former people who inject drugs (PWID).

While highly effective HCV treatment is available, uptake in PWUD and patients on medications for opioid use disorder 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;
- Applicant should not be currently providing HCV treatment onsite or via telehealth.
- Applicant must operate an outpatient or opioid treatment program in NYS.
- Applicant must meet the minimum number of unique clients served in 2022 based on program type:
 - Outpatient treatment programs must have served at least 400 unique clients in 2022.
 - Opioid treatment programs must have served at least 250 unique clients in 2022; 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 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 treatment;
- Develop policies and procedures to effectively link clients to HCV 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:

- Participate in an in-person launch meeting of the collaborative;
- Establish a HCV implementation team to champion integration of HCV services;

- Ensure participation of the implementation team in a Hepatitis C training within the first two months of the contract;
- Assess organizational infrastructure to support HCV services (e.g., policies, practices, services, etc.) within the first three months of the contract;
- Assess staff knowledge of HCV at the start and end of the contract;
- Participate in monthly learning collaborative calls;
- Participate in individual technical assistance calls;
- Submit monthly narrative reports;
- Collect and submit monthly data through the NYS Learning Collaborative data portal on HCV testing and other key measures for all new admissions to monitor and evaluate the success of the collaborative;
- Actively share resources and lessons learned with other participants of the learning collaborative; and
- Participate in a closing meeting to share overall and program specific successes, challenges, and final data outcomes.

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.

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 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, 2) Completed Project Proposal form, 3) Completed Project Checklist, 4) Agency Executive Director Attestation signed by organization leadership, 5) Agency Organizational Chart, and 6) Current Financial Audit Report. The Project Proposal is limited to seven (7) double-spaced pages with one-inch margins. If possible, submit all required documentation together in one pdf file. If you need to send separate

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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 2/27/2024.

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

Contact Information

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