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## Contracting Opportunity

**Title:** Solicitation of Interest - # 20141: New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute (NYSDOH AI) Research and Evaluation Projects

**Agency:** Health, NYS Dept. of

**Division:** AIDS Institute

**Contract Number:** TBD

**Contract Term:** 10/1/2022-9/30/2023

**Date of Issue:** 04/14/2022

**Due Date/Time:** 05/11/2022 4:00 PM

**County(ies):** All NYS counties

**Classification:** Medical & Health Care - *Consulting & Other Services*

**Opportunity Type:** Grant or notice of funds availability

**Entered By:** Michele Kerwin

**Description:** The NYSDOH AI announces the opportunity for qualified organizations located throughout New York State (NYS) to receive support for new research and evaluation projects that bring understanding to the research and evaluation questions described in the [NYSDOH AI Research Agenda](#).

In June 2014, NYS announced a three-point plan to end the AIDS epidemic in NYS. This plan provided a roadmap to significantly reduce HIV infections to a historic low by the end of 2020, with the goal of achieving the first ever decrease in HIV prevalence. The plan also aimed to improve the health of all HIV positive New Yorkers and was the first jurisdictional effort of its kind in the U.S. The three points highlighted in the plan are:

- 1) Identify persons with HIV who remain undiagnosed and get them linked to care;
- 2) Link and retain persons diagnosed with HIV in health care to maximize viral suppression; and
- 3) Increase access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for persons who are HIV negative.

The State's Ending the Epidemic (ETE) initiative was launched with visionary leadership and extensive stakeholder leadership and participation. The ETE Blueprint (BP) continues to guide all ETE efforts. The ETE Addendum Report is a written report that provides an overview of the past five years of New York

State's ETE initiatives, as well as a summary of the community feedback sessions that were conducted in 2020 to assist in identifying areas of focus for ETE beyond 2020. The ETE BP and the ETE Addendum report are available on the NYSDOH website at: [www.health.ny.gov/endingtheepidemic](http://www.health.ny.gov/endingtheepidemic). This document describes a range of new and enhanced projects that will help investigators design research and evaluation projects that are responsive to this funding opportunity.

In November 2019, the NYSDOH AI formed the Center for Program Development, Implementation, Research and Evaluation (CPDIRE) to support and coordinate research and program evaluation at the NYSDOH AI. CPDIRE evaluates existing programming, develops data-driven programming in support of ETE initiatives, supports internal quality improvement, and disseminates best practices. To further a commitment to innovative, mission-driven research and better coordinate limited resources, CPDIRE facilitated the development of the [NYSDOH AI Research Agenda](#), completed in January 2022. The Agenda is comprised of research and program evaluation activities and prioritizes questions and knowledge gaps that will guide NYSDOH AI research for the next three years. Research Agenda focus areas align with the primary focus areas of the NYSDOH AI: HIV, hepatitis C (HCV), sexually transmitted infection (STI), drug user health, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) health, and included cross-cutting issues identified as NYSDOH AI priorities such as health equity.

Minimum Qualifications:

- The organization must be a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, including community-based organizations, tribal organizations, counties, and government entities; or an Article 28 licensed facility (Awards will not be made to individual, unaffiliated researchers);
- The organization is eligible to do business with NYS;
- The organization is either headquartered in NYS or has fiscal operations in NYS; and
- The Principal Investigator (PI) affiliated with the organization has at least three years of experience with conducting public health research and/or evaluation projects.

Expected Activities/Work Performed:

Funded organizations will conduct one-year research and evaluation projects to advance progress towards ending AIDS as an epidemic in NYS and to support the organization's broader mission to prevent new infections, improve the health and well-being of persons living with HIV, STI, and HCV, and improve LGBT health, and drug user health. The NYSDOH AI is particularly interested in innovative research/evaluation projects that address the following questions identified in the [NYSDOH AI Research Agenda](#). Please note that, except where specifically proposed as a research topic in Priority 4, there is the expectation that cross-cutting issues of health equity,

health disparities, and stigma will be incorporated into research whenever practicable.

Priority 1: Improve HIV care outcomes, including timely HIV detection and higher rates of viral suppression

- What are the best practices within primary care settings to improve viral suppression and reduce disparity gaps within NYSDOH AI priority populations?

Priority 1a: Specific interest in HIV and Aging

- To what extent do older adults with HIV/AIDS experience functional limitations or disabilities that compromise their self-care and independence?
- How can the comorbid disease burden of older HIV-positive patients best be quantified to answer questions such as the following?
- What effect does HIV disease and/or Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) have on major risk factors for ill health in the elderly?
- How does disease burden vary by race and geography?
- Do individuals infected at birth have more comorbidities than long term survivors who have lived with HIV for similar lengths of time?
- What are the effects of age at diagnosis on longevity?
- Additional questions related to Priority Area 1 or Priority Area 1a are welcome and subject to approval by NYSDOH AI.

Priority 2: Increase access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

What level of HIV PrEP provision is needed to effectively reduce new HIV acquisition in each priority population (i.e., among Black cisgender females, Black men who have sex with men (MSM), Hispanic females, persons who use drugs (PWUD), etc.)? What are barriers to PrEP uptake within each population?

- Additional questions related to Priority Area 2 are welcome and subject to approval by NYSDOH AI.

Priority 3: Continue coordinated efforts to reduce new HIV and STI diagnoses in sexual minorities, including but not limited to LGBT, and queer or questioning populations

- To what extent can programmatic interventions be developed or exist to address the impact of loneliness, depression, family stress, discrimination, and stigma on the access to HIV services for Latino MSM?
- Additional questions related to Priority Area 3 are welcome and subject to approval by NYSDOH AI.

Priority 4: Promote health equity and address health disparities and stigma

Do disparate populations have equitable access to syringe delivery systems

and what are best strategies to reduce disparities in service utilization?

- What are the needs, risk and protective factors, and sources of health care and healing that affect the health and wellbeing of indigenous people impacted by HIV/AIDS?
- There are disparities in HIV prevention programming, which result in reduced awareness and access to prevention tools among women. How can awareness and access to these tools be increased?
- To what extent do NYSDOH AI funded providers practice culturally competent care? What is the impact of failure to do so on willingness to access care?
- Additional questions related to Priority Area 4 are welcome and subject to approval by NYSDOH AI.

Priority 5: Eliminate HCV

- Questions related to Priority Area 5 are welcome and subject to approval by NYSDOH AI.

Priority 6: Promote sexual health through new and expanded STI initiatives, evaluation, research, education, and care and treatment options

To what extent can STI and HIV testing be effectively promoted on college campus and to what extent will doing so yield "high enough" positivity rates relative to other venues?

- What is the sexual health-related knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors and characteristics of recipients of comprehensive sexual health education in NYS compared to those who did not receive comprehensive sexual health education? What are the implications, if any, for NYSDOH AI practices?
- Additional questions related to Priority Area 6 are welcome and subject to approval by NYSDOH AI.

Priority 7: Promote interagency collaboration to improve drug user health, with a specific focus on expanding access to sterile syringes, increasing safe syringe disposal resources, and preventing overdose deaths including providing access points for buprenorphine

- What is the incidence of serious injection-related infections (e.g., endocarditis, osteomyelitis) in PWUD in NYS, and what are the patterns of treatment, downstream health outcomes, and economic impact of these conditions?
- To what extent can syringe access be increased in NYS, particularly in low syringe exchange program access areas, through purposeful partnerships and the expansion of second-tier syringe exchange programming?
- Best practices around delivery of harm reduction services for PWUD are generally known. To what extent are NYSDOH AI funded harm reduction providers implementing these services?

- How can take home drug checking/testing kits be effectively used through syringe exchange programs/drug user health hubs to reduce the risk of overdose for PWUD by providing timely information about the contents and combinations of substances prevalent in the illicit drug supply?
- Anecdotal and on-the-ground observations appear to indicate very high levels of posttraumatic stress disorder, burnout, stress among staff of Drug User Health Hubs and syringe exchange programs. To what extent can this be verified through more systematic research? To what extent can potential strategies, utilizing lessons learned from the HIV epidemic, be identified to systematically address this?
- To what extent can social media be used to support harm reduction practices among young PWUD in rural and suburban areas of upstate NY?
- Additional questions related to Priority Area 7 are welcome and subject to approval by NYSDOH AI.

### Priority 8: Cross-cutting and Emerging Issues

To what extent has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the public trust of public health entities? What is the potential impact of this on HIV and STI interventions?

- Additional questions related to Priority Area 8 are welcome and subject to approval by NYSDOH AI.

Note: This SOI will NOT consider research/evaluation projects that are unresponsive to the specific questions or specific priority areas noted above.

Funded organizations will be expected to:

- Submit an initial plan with detailed study methods to be reviewed and developed in collaboration with NYSDOH AI;
- Participate in (quarterly) meetings with representatives from the NYSDOH AI to provide updates on the projects, including but not limited to progress made and challenges encountered;
- Submit a final report of the project summarizing the research performed, complete with the problem statements, study methods, major findings, and recommendations;
- Participate in a close-out meeting at the end of the funding period and provide a presentation on their project; and
- Voucher monthly to the NYSDOH AI.

Award Details:

It is anticipated that available funding will support up to twelve contracts at approximately \$35,000 each. Funding is subject to availability and awarded without assurance of continued or subsequent funding.

Funding for this project is contingent on the availability of State funds and the

number of eligible organizations that respond to this opportunity. Available funding to support this initiative will be limited to the amount(s) appropriated in the enacted State Fiscal Year budgets for this purpose and will be distributed equally among research/evaluation projects selected by the Department. This advertisement is not a guarantee or promise of funding.

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

**How to Apply:**

Prior to the deadline, please communicate your interest in applying by sending an email to: [AIGPU@health.ny.gov](mailto:AIGPU@health.ny.gov).& nbsp; Include: 1) your name, 2) your affiliation/organization, and 3) the projects' tentative title.

Interested eligible organizations must submit the following information: 1) SOI Cover Sheet (available under "Documents" tab), 2) Completed Project Form (available under "Documents" tab), 3) Completed Project Checklist (available under "Documents" tab) with all supporting documentation requested from it, and 4) a copy of your organization's most current financial audit report. 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](mailto:AIGPU@health.ny.gov) no later than 4:00 pm ET on May 11, 2022.

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

**Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Set Aside: No**

**Minority Owned Sub-Contracting Goal: 0%**

**Women Owned Sub-Contracting Goal: 0%**

**Business entities awarded an identical or substantially similar procurement contract within the past five years: None**

## Contact Information

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## Supporting document(s) shown below:

The following supporting documents are available for download:

Document title	Description	Type
Solicitation of Interest - # 20141: New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute (NYSDOH AI) Research and Evaluation Projects	Solicitation of Interest - # 20141: New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute (NYSDOH AI) Research and Evaluation Projects	pdf
Solicitation of Interest # 20141 - NYSDOH AI Research & Evaluation Projects : Cover Sheet	Solicitation of Interest # 20141 -NYSDOH AI Research & Evaluation Projects : Cover Sheet	docx
Solicitation of Interest # 20141 - NYSDOH AI Research & Evaluation Projects : Project Form	Solicitation of Interest # 20141 - NYSDOH AI Research & Evaluation Projects : Project Form	docx
Solicitation of Interest # 20141 - NYSDOH AI Research & Evaluation Projects -Project Checklist	Solicitation of Interest # 20141 NYSDOH AI Research & Evaluation Projects Project Checklist	docx

To download these documents, please visit the New York State Contract Reporter website: <http://www.nyscr.ny.gov>



## **Bid Results**

Bid Results have not been entered

## Awards

Awards have not been entered



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