

Request for Proposals (RFP) RFP Log #2024-0903  
Comprehensive Integrated HIV/HCV Prevention  
Services

Bidder's Conference  
March 7, 2023  
1PM-3PM

Proposals due: **March 31, 2023 at 4:00 PM**

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Meeting Guidelines/Expectations
- RFP Overview
- Available Funding
- Regional Model
- Core Interventions
- Evaluation Criteria and Review Committee
- Questions and Answers

# Meeting Guidelines/Expectations

- Thank you for taking the time to be here.
- Respect our commitment to make this meeting productive.
- Participant microphones will be muted.
- Please place questions relevant to the RFP in the chat. We will address them at the end of the presentation.
- All RFP questions and answers will be posted on the DPH website (including any questions that cannot be answered today).

# RFP Overview

- A Request for Proposal (RFP) is an open competitive bid.
- Funding through this RFP is not Contingent on Previous Funding.
- Funding Cycle begins January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2028, and is contingent on availability of funds.
- This new funding model is to improve contract procurement processes so that funding is administered to the community as seamlessly as possible.
- This RFP serves to streamline services and reduce duplication of services in areas most impacted by HIV.

# Available Funding

- Impact of CDC PS18-1802 for the 17-month Extension
- Funding will be for a five-year period beginning approximately January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2028, **subject to the availability of funds** and satisfactory program performance

**Funding Distribution by Regional Service areas**

Region 1 New Haven County	Region 2 Fairfield and Litchfield Counties	Region 3 Hartford, Middlesex & Tolland Counties	Region 4 New London and Windham County	Statewide Harm Reduction Services	Statewide HIV Testing
\$1,082,997	\$833,416	\$1,376,327	\$343,799	\$202,030	\$202,030

**Note.** The amount available includes \$477,732 of state syringe service funds, \$2,580,366 of state HIV Funds and \$982,501 of federal funds.

# Regional Model

- The Proposer must predetermine how all core prevention interventions outlined in this RFP will be implemented in their designated region or statewide and then provide a detailed narrative in the proposal.
- The Proposer must describe how they will partner or subcontract with one or more health care organizations
- Regional Lead contractors will coordinate services by collaborating and subcontracting with agencies within one of 4 regional service areas:
  - 1) New Haven County,
  - 2) Fairfield County and Litchfield County,
  - 3) Hartford, Middlesex, and Tolland Counties,
  - 4) New London and Windham Counties

# Connecticut Data Maps

- Hepatitis C Cases 2016-2022 [HCV Cases](#)
- Fatal Overdoses July, 2019 - June, 2021 [Fatal Overdoses](#)
- Non-Fatal Opioid Overdoses, 2019-2021 [Non Fatal Overdoses](#)
- HIV Newly Diagnosed Cases, 2016-2020 [HIV Cases](#)
- People Living With HIV (PLWH), 2020 [PLWH](#)
- Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) Clients, 2020 [SSP Clients](#)

# HIV/HCV Testing Using a Status Neutral Care Model

- Individuals tested through this program should be linked to appropriate services based on their test result.
- Those testing positive for HIV must be linked to confirmatory testing, medical care, and Partner Services (PS).
- All persons testing negative for HIV and reporting risk factors must be given PrEP information and screened for eligibility.
- For persons eligible and interested, PrEP Navigation Services must be provided.
- These services include, 1) navigating insurance and other payment systems, 2) linkage to a PrEP medical provider, 3) support with obtaining and adhering to PrEP, and 4) identifying, and reducing barriers to care.



# Core Intervention 1: HIV/HCV Testing in Non-Clinical Settings

- HIV Testing in the community using a Status Neutral Model
- Confirmatory testing for all persons who test positive for HIV on a rapid test
- Education and Awareness Sessions
- Community Mapping
- Outreach and Recruitment
- PrEP Navigation Services and linkage to PrEP medical services
- Linkage to Care and Treatment for those confirmed positive for HIV
- Collect and report in EvaluationWeb and e2CTPrevention
- Successful proposers are required to have a CLIA waiver in place.

# Core Intervention 2: HIV/HCV Testing in Clinical Settings

- Academic detailing and education
- Patient education on HIV, HCV, STDs and SUD
- Annual Routine HIV/HCV testing and screening for STD and SUD
- Linkage to Prevention Services for those testing negative
- PrEP Navigation Services and linkage to PrEP medical services for those testing negative
- Linkage to Care and Treatment for those who test positive for HIV
- Collect and report into EvaluationWeb.

# Core Intervention 3: Harm Reduction Services (Formerly Drug User Health Services)

- Community Mapping
- Outreach and Recruitment
- Syringe Service Program
- HIV/HCV Testing
- PrEP/PEP Education and Navigation Services
- Overdose Prevention, Training and Naloxone Distribution
- Safer Injection Practices and Wound Care
- Drug Treatment Advocacy
- Collect and report in EvaluationWeb and e2CTPrevention

# Evaluation Criteria

To be eligible for evaluation, proposals must:

- (1) be received **on or before** the due date and time; (**March 31, 2023 at 4:00 PM**)
- (2) meet the Proposal Format requirements and be e-mailed to [DPH.HIV\\_Prevention\\_RFP\\_Submission@ct.gov](mailto:DPH.HIV_Prevention_RFP_Submission@ct.gov)
- (3) meet the Eligibility and Qualification requirements to respond to the procurement,
- (4) follow the required Proposal Outline; and
- (5) be complete.

Proposals that fail to follow instructions or satisfy these minimum submission requirements will not be reviewed further.

The Department will reject any proposal that deviates significantly from the requirements of this RFP.

# RFP Review Committee

- The Department will designate a Review Committee to evaluate proposals submitted in response to this RFP. The Review Committee will be composed of individuals, Department staff or other designees as deemed appropriate.
- The Review Committee shall evaluate all proposals that meet the Minimum Submission Requirements by score and rank order. The review committee will make recommendations for awards.
- The department will make the final selection.
- Proposers with significant outstanding unresolved issues on current and/or prior year contracts with DPH or other state agencies may be removed from consideration for additional or future funding.
- Proposers will be notified if their proposal was successful by e-mail.
- DPH will include a list of all successful applicants on the DAS Portal.

# Procurement Schedule

**Procurement Schedule.** See below. Dates after the due date for proposals (“Proposals Due”) are non-binding target dates only (\*). The Department may amend the schedule as needed. Any change to non-target dates will be made by means of an amendment to this RFP and will be posted on the State Contracting Portal and, if available, the Department’s RFP Web Page.

<b>RFP Activity</b>	<b>RFP Timeline</b>
*RFP Release	February 10, 2023
Letter of Intent Due	February 24, 2023
Deadline for Questions	February 24, 2023
RFP Conference	March 7, 2023
Answers Released	March 14, 2023
Proposals Due	March 31, 2023
*Start of Contract	January 1, 2024

# Questions and Answers

- [Questions and Answers](#)
- This will be the last chance to ask questions before the RFP is due.
- Reminder: Proposals are due **March 31, 2023 at 4:00 PM**
- Proposals received after the deadline will **NOT** be accepted.

**Proposals must be e-mailed to:**

**[DPH.HIV\\_Prevention\\_RFP\\_Submission@ct.gov](mailto:DPH.HIV_Prevention_RFP_Submission@ct.gov)**