

HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Administration (HAHSTA)

HIV Prevention Activities: Syndemic Approach

Funding Opportunity #FO-HAHSTA-PG-00120-000

RFA #HAHSTA_SYN111622

Pre-Application Conference Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

10:00am-12pm ET

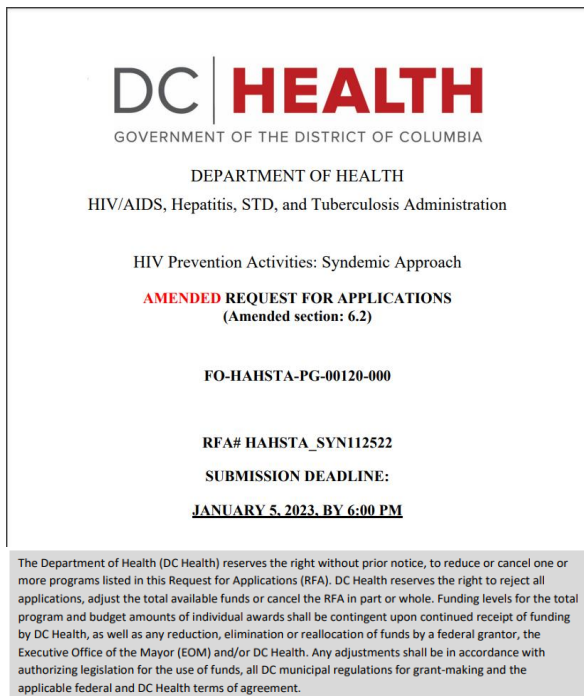
Prospective Applicant Questions:

- **Question:** Is the Syndemic Approach Request for Application (RFA) replacing the Syringe Services Program (SSP) program currently managed by the Department of Behavioral Health?
Answer: No, the Syndemic RFA is an enhancement.
 - **Question:** If an agency is currently receiving funding under Ryan White Part A or B, are they eligible to apply?
Answer: Applicants are not eligible to apply for the same area for which they are currently funded to provide services. However, applicants may apply for a different area for which they are not already funded. See **NOTE** below regarding the Amended RFA.
 - **Question:** As we think through our application, we are seeking additional clarification on duplication of services. Although we are a status-neutral funded provider through Ryan White funds, only a fraction of our HIV/STI testing and PrEP/PEP work is funded under Ryan White. We are requesting confirmation on our eligibility to apply for Service Area 1A: HIV, STI, and Hepatitis Screening Activities and Service Area 3: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)/Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) so that we may continue serving clients currently provided for under our Prevention HCA [Human Care Agreement]?
Answer: **PLEASE NOTE:** This RFA has been Amended. Applicants may not apply for services currently being funded by Status Neutral or any other funding streams; however, they may describe different models of service provision, different populations of focus, and/or their capacity to manage funding streams independently. The applicant must provide an explanation as to why and how the proposed services are not duplicative and how they exceed the capacity of the funds currently supporting these services. Here is the link to the DC Grants Clearinghouse to view the Amended RFA:
<https://communityaffairs.dc.gov/content/community-grant-program>
 - **Question:** Can an organization apply for more than one service area?
Answer: Yes, applicants can apply for as many awards as they are eligible.
 - **Question:** Does the 10-page proposal limit pertain to each service area for which we are applying or in total?
Answer: The proposal limit is 10-pages per service area.
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- **Question:** Is the Syndemic Approach RFA replacing the Human Care Agreements?
Answer: Yes, the Syndemic Approach RFA will replace the Human Care Agreements. All Human Care Agreement providers should have received a notification about those services ending on February 28, 2023. HAHSTA is pivoting from the fee-for-service model and transitioning to grant-based model.
- **Question:** Are all Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) organizations eligible to apply for this RFA?
Answer: No, only those who provide services in the District of Columbia are eligible to apply.
- **Question:** Will HAHSTA be funding Hepatitis B point-of-care testing?
Answer: No, point-of-care testing (also known as rapid diagnostic testing) will not be part of this RFA as it is not Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved. Laboratory-based testing will continue to be necessary.
- **Question:** How do organizations get the email with the Assurance Package?
Answer: Please send an email to preventionrfas@dc.gov requesting the package and it will be emailed to you.
- **Question:** Where can organizations submit any pre-application questions?
Answer: All questions can be emailed to preventionrfas@dc.gov
- **Question:** Please provide the slide set used on Tuesday [December 6, 2022 at the Pre-Application] conference.
Answer: To view the slide set, go to website:
<https://communityaffairs.dc.gov/content/community-grant-program>
- **Question:** Will our proposed services/application be considered appropriate for this RFA?
Answer: It is up to your organization to make your proposal(s) in your application(s) to be reviewed competitively by the External Review Panel.
- **Question:** What type of STI test is preferred under the grant?
Answer: It is up to your organization to make your proposal(s) in your application(s) to be reviewed competitively by the External Review Panel.
- **Question:** Are incentives allowed for testing? If so, what type?
Answer: The applicant should propose how the incentives will enhance program performance. It is up to your organization to detail each of your activities and make your proposal(s) in your application(s) to be reviewed competitively by the External Review Panel.

- **Question:** Can we include “Case management services,” such as “patient navigator” in the proposal?

Answer: It is up to the applicant to propose services they intend to implement. Each application will be reviewed competitively by the External Review Panel.



- **Question:** We are preparing the budget justification for FO-HAHSTA-PG-00120-000 and would like clarification as to whether or not we need to budget the screening and testing costs for HIV, HBV, HCV, and STI.
Answer: HAHSTA will provide rapid HIV test kits and rapid HCV kits. Applicants do not need to budget for the cost of those devices.
- **Question:** Should we utilize a “payor of last resort” model, and attempt to bill insurance for testing or should it be free under the grant?
Answer: Services should be free under this grant.

Updated as of: January 1, 2023.