



## Harm Reduction Coalition - Request for Proposals

Harm Reduction Coalition seeks an experienced public health research team to conduct a county-based vulnerability assessment for potential HIV and hepatitis C outbreaks in California.

### Organization Overview

Harm Reduction Coalition is a national advocacy and capacity-building organization that promotes health and justice for people and communities affected by drug use. Harm Reduction Coalition creates spaces for dialogue and action that help heal the harms caused by racialized drug policies. Our efforts advance harm reduction policies, practices, and programs that address the adverse effects of drug use including overdose, HIV, hepatitis C, addiction, and incarceration. We work to uphold every person's right to health and well-being, and their competence to participate in the public policy dialogue.

### Project Description

We are seeking a research team to conduct a county-based vulnerability assessment potential HIV and hepatitis C outbreaks in California modeled after a similar [the recent Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) national study](#). The vulnerability assessment will be one component of a larger statewide needs assessment project of syringe exchange programs in California. The qualified research team will have extensive experience working with public health/social justice organizations as well as demonstrated experience conducting public health research. The research team will be expected to design and execute the following research activities:

- Develop a study design to assess vulnerability for potential HIV and hepatitis C outbreaks in California by county using pre-existing data;
- Identify indicators (protective and risk) associated with HIV and hepatitis C incidence in consultation with Harm Reduction Coalition, State program officials, and select community stakeholders;
- Develop statistical models using identified indicators after assessing collinearity to predict potential vulnerability for an HIV and hepatitis C outbreak by county;
- Rank counties by analysis of composite index scores based on identified risk and protective factors;
- Produce and deliver final report to Harm Reduction Coalition to include in *The State of Syringe Exchange in California* report.

### Timeline

Project Timeline: November 15, 2017 – May 15, 2018 (6 months)

### Proposal Guidelines

Proposals should include the following information [maximum 6 pages]:

1. Cover letter, with address and contact person.
2. Research team profile, including management structure and staff expertise.
3. Qualifications, presenting similar project undertaken as lead research team within the past five years, including final products and period of engagement.
4. Proposed methodological approach, sources of data, initial schema of indicators, and a detailed timeline. Include citations and links to completed research projects for reference to similar study designs and/or content areas.
5. Provide clear and detailed budget, not to exceed \$75,000, with estimates for personnel time necessary to complete all tasks [not included in proposal page limits].

6. Attach CVs for each of the research team members who will be included on the project with relevant citations [not included in proposal page limits].



Proposals will be assessed on both technical and cost proposals. Do not include attachments or promotional documents with your submission. Note that this request does not in any way commit Harm Reduction Coalition to enter into a partnership with any organization.

### **Proposal Submission**

1. Please address your proposal submission with "CA Needs Assessment Research Sub-Study - RFP" in the subject line to: Taeko Frost, DrPH, Western Regional Director - [frost@harmreduction.org](mailto:frost@harmreduction.org)
2. Submit PDF versions of the following documents:
  - a. Narrative proposal labeled "[Your Group Name] – CA Needs Assessment Proposal"
  - b. Proposed budget labeled "[Your Group Name] – Budget"
  - c. CVs or resumes of key team members "[Last Name, First Name] – Resume/CV"

### **Deadline for proposal submission**

October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 by 5pm PST. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Award announcements will be delivered by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.