HepConnect Initiative to Expand Harm Reduction & Community Education
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

HepConnect Overview
The United States is experiencing rising rates of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections, fueled by the nation’s growing opioid crisis. This issue is particularly acute in greater Appalachia, where the increase in injection drug use has led to a more than three-fold rise in HCV infection rates. In response to the intersecting opioid and HCV epidemics, Gilead Sciences launched HepConnect, a new five-year, multi-million-dollar initiative to help address the increase in HCV infections and support community partnerships in Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia. HepConnect has three areas of focus: (1) Expanding Screening & Linkage to Care, (2) Support Harm Reduction & Community Education, and (3) Activating Healthcare Infrastructure. Under Expanding Screening & Linkage to Care, the focus is on expanding screening and connecting patients to appropriate care. Under Activating Healthcare Infrastructure, the focus is on educating and expanding healthcare provider capacity and supporting the implementation of telemedicine and other innovative programs. This Request for Proposals is specific to Support Harm Reduction & Community Education, which focuses on building the capacity of new and existing syringe service programs and supporting initiatives that engage, educate, and mobilize community support for harm reduction. To learn more about HepConnect, click here.

HepConnect Initiative to Expand Harm Reduction & Community Education
Harm Reduction Coalition is the lead organization for the Support Harm Reduction & Community Education component of the HepConnect Initiative. The overarching goal of the project is to advance hepatitis C prevention for people who inject drugs by expanding harm reduction services and education through grant-making and technical assistance.

Harm Reduction Coalition will be funding up to $6 million in grants over an initial 18-month period that support the expansion of harm reduction approaches to reduce the impact of hepatitis C and drug-related harms in the greater Appalachia region. We are seeking proposals that will build upon local expertise, uplift the voices and priorities of people who use drugs, and center racial justice.

There are two categories of funding available for the “Expand Harm Reduction & Community Education” Initiative:

1. Provide - Providing new or expanded harm reduction services for people who inject drugs
2. Educate - Offering new strategies to engage, educate, and mobilize the community to build support for harm reduction

Grant Amount: Requests may range from $25,000 to $150,000 for each category
Grant Period: September 15, 2019 to March 15, 2021 (18 months)
Grant Application Deadline: July 31, 2019 by midnight Eastern Time
Announcement of Awards: Early September 2019

Organizations may apply for one or both funding categories. Organizations applying to both categories of funding will need to submit separate cover letters, narrative proposals, and budgets for each category. Organizations may not apply for more than one project per category.

We will add a third category of funding to support one-time events that will offer mini-grants to new or existing grantees at a later time during the grant period.

Please review the instructional webinar and our FAQ which is updated as questions come in here.
Eligible organizations: organizations, coalitions, or groups with a 501(c)3 non-profit status or a fiscal sponsor with a 501(c)3 status that offer services in the five HepConnect initiative states (IN, KY, TN, WV, NC); local and state health departments and other government entities are eligible to apply. We encourage partnerships between organizations to submit applications together where appropriate. Individuals or for-profit entities are not eligible to apply.

Selection Process: Harm Reduction Coalition will convene a review panel to assess proposals to assess quality, potential impact, priority, and role in the larger HepConnect initiative.

Examples of Activities Funded Under Each Category

Provide

May include funding for...
... harm reduction supplies (syringes, injecting equipment, safer smoking equipment, overdose prevention materials including naloxone)
... staff and consultant positions
... expanding harm reduction service hours, locations, and communities reached
... mobile vans for rural outreach
... additional services such as counseling, case management, and patient navigation
... targeted outreach to specific communities, including communities of color, LGBTQIA+, people who engage in sex work, etc.
... peer program models to create paid positions for people with lived experience to provide services to new or expanded communities
... training and professional development for team members to increase skills and leadership

NOTE: Funded activities may not include the direct provision of HCV treatment.

Educate

May include funding for...
... public education campaigns on harm reduction strategies and anti-stigma
... staff positions to support community education and engagement
... starting regional coalitions or professional networks to support harm reduction strategies
... community mobilization roles to organize people who use drugs
... initiatives to build support for harm reduction among sectors of the community, including people in recovery, faith communities, parent groups, law enforcement, social service providers, public officials, businesses, etc.
Submission Instructions

Please address your proposal submission with “HepConnect Initiative Grant Application” in the subject line to hepconnectgrants@harmreduction.org by the deadline. Late submissions will not be considered.

1. Submit Word, PDF, and/or Excel versions of the following documents:
   a. Cover Letter using the template provided labeled “[Your Group Name] – Cover Letter”
   b. Proposal narrative labeled “[Your Group Name] – Provide Proposal Narrative” and/or “[Your Group Name] – Educate Proposal Narrative”
   c. Proposed budget labeled “[Your Group Name] – Provide Budget” and/or “[Your Group Name] – HepConnect Educate Budget”
   d. 501(c)3 determination letter or 501(c)3 determination of fiscal sponsor
   e. Most recent audited financial statements or 990 filing
   f. If you are proposing a collaborative project with between more than one organization, please submit Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) letters from each organization outlining commitment to working together
   g. Optional: You may submit up to three letters of support on behalf of partner organizations

Please access all documents and templates here: https://harmreduction.org/hepconnectgrants

Questions about the process? Please review our webinar that reviews the process, eligibility, components, and frequently asked questions. You can submit questions through July 20th to hepconnect@harmreduction.org. Responses to any submitted questions will be added to our Frequently Asked Questions section on the website. We are unable to provide individual assistance or guidance.

About Harm Reduction Coalition

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.