

**Initiative: Expanding Harm Reduction Services for Priority Populations Who Use Drugs**

RFA Release Date: August 14, 2023

Award Period: 7/1/24 to 6/30/26

Total Annual Amount Awarded for Initiative: \$7,500,000

Number of Awards: 10 Awards for 13 contracts

Overview:

Death by drug overdose remains a statewide crisis, and more resources are needed to support priority populations that are especially vulnerable to overdose and who have been historically marginalized and stigmatized by systems of care. The goal of this initiative is to expand comprehensive harm reduction services/supplies and culturally competent medical and social services for people who use drugs with a focus on priority populations who experience persistent inequities including but not limited to drug use, overdose, and other negative health outcomes. The priority populations include Black, Indigenous, Persons of Color, Criminal Legal/Justice Involved, Houseless, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex +, Older Adults, and Pregnant/Parenting People.

Each funded agency will:

- increase harm reduction services and supplies through non-stigmatizing care
- advance health equity, and address social determinants of health that contribute to
- perpetuating an individual's vulnerability to repeated overdose, such as lack of stable housing, poverty, stigma, and racism
- address the intersectionality of drug user health with other specialty care like sexually transmitted infections, HIV, and hepatitis C
- increase engagement of people who use drugs
- evaluate and report on activities, trends, and innovations

Agencies are expected to work collaboratively with the Syringe Exchange Programs, Drug User Health Hub, Opioid Overdose Prevention programs, and other relevant partners in

their region to provide meaningful, non-coercive, client-driven services to reduce overdose and other negative outcomes of substance use. Examples of activities may include increased access to low-threshold buprenorphine, providing naloxone and training on its use, distributing fentanyl test strips and other harm reduction supplies, as well as targeted interventions for those who have previously experienced an overdose.

Below is a table of awarded agencies, sorted by NYS Region and Priority Population to be served:

Priority Population	NYS Region	Agency	Annual Award Amount
Houseless/homeless	Capital District	AIDS Council of Northeastern NY/Alliance for Positive Health	\$ 169,270.00
Pregnant/Parenting		AIDS Council of Northeastern NY/Alliance for Positive Health	\$ 300,000.00
Criminal Legal/Justice Involved	Central	AIDS Community Resources, Inc	\$ 300,000.00
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex +	New York City	AIDS Center of Queens County	\$ 300,000.00
Pregnant/Parenting		Icahn School of Medicine at Mt Sinai	\$ 300,000.00
Houseless/homeless		Justice Innovation, Inc	\$ 300,000.00
Black, Indigenous, Persons of Color		Justice Innovation, Inc.	\$ 300,000.00
		National Harm Reduction Coalition (on behalf of Bronx Móvil)	\$ 282,360.00
		The Bridge, Inc.	\$ 300,000.00
Criminal Legal/Justice Involved		The Fortune Society, Inc.	\$ 300,000.00
		Housing Works Inc.	\$ 300,000.00

Older Adults		Justice Innovation, Inc.	\$ 300,000.00
Houseless/homeless	Western	Cayuga County Community Health Center	\$ 298,370.00