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DCTS Action Memo 2022-11

To: Subscribers of the DCTS Action Memo Email Distribution List

From: Rose Kleman, Administrator

Request for Applications - Community Driven Approaches to Prevent Opioid Harms in Disproportionally Affected Populations

Summary

This memo outlines a request for applications for federally recognized tribal nations with members in Wisconsin and Wisconsin-based nonprofit organizations to develop a plan for a culturally responsive primary prevention strategy related to opioids for a disproportionately affected population, which is a community that faces barriers in accessing and using primary prevention strategies related to opioids. Four one-year grants of up to \$175,000 will be awarded from this request for applications. The deadline to apply for funding is 11:59 p.m. August 31, 2022.

Background

Data shows increasing health inequities in Wisconsin related to the opioid epidemic. The overall rate in Wisconsin for opioid-related deaths was 15.8 deaths per 100,000 people in 2019 and 21.1 in 2020. Opioid-related deaths are disproportionately higher for some populations. The chart below shows the rate of opioid-related deaths for racial and ethnic populations in Wisconsin in 2019 and 2020.

Opioid-Related Deaths in Wisconsin
(Rate per 100,000 people)

Race/Ethnicity	2019	2020
Native American	37.1	39.6
Black	28.5	40.6
White	15.0	19.8
Hispanic	13.2	18.9

Additionally, data shows that the overall state rate for emergency room hospitalizations for opioid-related overdoses was 43.9 per 100,000 people in 2019 and 52.1 in 2020. Again, hospitalizations for opioid-related overdoses are disproportionately higher for some populations. The table on page 2 shows the rate of opioid-related emergency hospitalizations for racial and ethnic populations in Wisconsin in 2019 and 2020.

Emergency Room Hospitalizations for Opioid Overdoses

(Rate per 100,000 people)

Race/Ethnicity	2019	2020
Native American	97.1	129.0
Black	86.8	101.7
White	39.0	46.0
Hispanic	39.5	45.2

Primary prevention is an important component of the continuum of care that addresses the root causes of substance use. This is done through different strategies that address the protective and risk factors of substance use and promote general health and well-being. However, to address disparities and reduce opioid-related fatalities and harm, primary prevention activities need to be relevant to the community. Many evidence-based primary prevention programs are outdated and not culturally relevant for some populations.

Under this request for applications, one-year planning grants will be awarded to federally recognized tribal nations with members in Wisconsin and Wisconsin-based nonprofit organizations with experience working directly with disproportionately affect populations to develop a plan for a culturally responsive primary prevention strategy related to opioids for the community.

Disproportionally affect populations are populations who face barriers in accessing and using primary prevention strategies, which could correspond to, but need not correspond to, those most adversely affected by health outcome inequities.

Successful applicants will receive technical assistance support from staff in the Division of Care and Treatment Services and a contracted technical assistance provider to ensure their project is community driven.

Successful applicants will engage directly with a disproportionately affected population to assess community needs and strengths and develop a strategic plan and budget for the implementation of culturally relevant opioid use prevention strategies.

By the end of the planning year funded by the dollars allocated under this request for applications, grantees will:

- Engage the community in various ways and collect data from activities such as key partner interviews, focus groups, community meetings, and listening sessions.
- Implement the [Strategic Prevention Framework](#). This includes reviewing data, identifying gaps in programming and strategies, and identifying future goals related to opioid prevention and health promotion.
- Complete an assessment of factors inside and outside their organization that may impact their goals, including identifying community resources, community readiness, and unique opportunities related to opioid prevention work.
- Identify sustainable and culturally relevant strategies to prevent opioid use and promote health and well-being including resources, community practices, and strategies to be implement in the following years.
- Outline an evaluation plan for the prevention work.

Strategic planning increases the effectiveness of primary prevention efforts by ensuring that planners select and implement the most appropriate programs and strategies for their communities. In an effective planning process, communities involve a diverse group of people, replace guesswork and hunches with data-driven decisions, and create comprehensive, evidence-based prevention plans to address substance use.

To develop a solid primary prevention plan related to opioid harms, successful applicants will:

- Prioritize the risk and protective factors associated with opioid use and misuse that have been identified through a community assessment.
- Select appropriate programs and practices to address each risk and protective factor.
- Use varying levels of interventions and multiple strategies to ensure a comprehensive approach.
- Build and share a logic model with diverse community members to gain community readiness and support.

Eligibility for funding

Applicants must be a federally recognized tribal nation with members in Wisconsin or a Wisconsin-based nonprofit organization that works directly with a disproportionately affected population as defined in this request for applications. Applicants must be located in the community they intend to engage and have an established relationship with the disproportionately affect population and related community networks. County agencies are not eligible to apply for this funding.

Award and contract information

Awards will be made to responsive and responsible applicants that attain the highest scored applications as a result of a review of the applications by a panel of subject matter experts. Up to four grants of no more than \$175,000 will be awarded.

DHS may negotiate the terms of the contract, including the award amount, with the selected applicant(s) prior to entering into a contract. If contract negotiations cannot be concluded successfully with a recommended applicant, DHS may terminate contract negotiations with that applicant.

The contracts resulting from this request for applications will be between DHS and the awarded applicant(s). Grantees using subcontractors will be responsible for ensuring subcontractors abide by all terms and conditions of the grant.

The contract term will be October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. This will be a standalone contract. All funds must be spent during the one-year contract period. If additional funding becomes available, successful applicants may receive funding for implementation of their plan.

There is no match requirement for this grant.

Selected applicants must follow all guidelines for spending [Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant funds](#), report client-level data and expenditures through the [Substance Abuse Prevention Services Information Services \(SAP-SIS\)](#), and submit semiannual performance reports.

Application design

Applicants may submit up to two different applications if the applications are unique and outline different experiences and culturally relevant strategies for the targeted populations.

The text on typed pages must be single spaced with one-inch margins. Use 12-point Times New Roman font. Clearly highlight the sections of the application by using the headers listed below.

Applications will be reviewed and scored by an evaluation committee using the criteria listed below.

Applicants using subcontractors must describe the capacity of their potential subcontractors in their application.

Cover page (10 points): List the following details on one page.

- Organization name
- Project or program title
- Organization leader (first name, last name, title)
- Website and/or social media page(s) (if applicable)
- Year organization or program was established
- Annual operational budget of the organization (*Preference points will be given to organizations with an annual operating budget of \$1 million or less.)
- Requested award amount in dollars
- Type of organization [tribal nation/organization or nonprofit organization, 501(c)(3)]
- Number of staff employed by the organization
- Describe the diversity within the organization and within the leadership roles in the organization
- Organization primary contact information:
 - First and last name, title
 - Email address
 - Phone number with area code
 - Mailing address (include city, state, and ZIP code)
- Describe the geographic areas served by your organization (e.g., names of region(s), ZIP code(s), county(ies), city(ies), neighborhood(s), tribal nations/reservation(s), etc.)

Project narrative: The project narrative should be a maximum of six pages.

- **Organization's capacity and experience (30 points)**
 - List the organization's mission, vision, and goals and describe how they align with opioid prevention efforts.
 - Describe how the organization currently works directly with a disproportionately affected population. Include past projects or experiences the organization has with community-driven projects supporting this community.
 - Describe how the organization adjusts the services and resources it provides given the specific needs of the communities the organization supports. Please address the following:
 - Cultural upbringing and practices
 - Native language and or dialect
 - Health literacy, understanding, and comprehension

- Describe the organization’s experience implementing primary substance use prevention services and strategies and/or other social and behavioral programs.
- List the staff from the organization with job titles that may be working on this effort and briefly describe their experience with community engagement and/or implementation of prevention strategies.
- **Organization’s plan (40 points)**
 - Describe the organization’s plan to engage a disproportionately affected population in a culturally relevant way. Include how community input will be gathered through activities such as key partner interviews, focus groups, meetings, and listening sessions. Include how community members will be involved throughout the effort.
 - Briefly describe the organization’s community partners and how they will be engaged in this project (essential people, agencies, sectors, and other organizations).
 - Briefly describe the community’s risk and protective factors as it pertains to opioid use and misuse.
 - Describe the organization’s goals for final products. Products may include resources, programs, events, activities, policies, and other prevention strategies to be implemented in the following years.
 - Describe the organization’s need for technical assistance (information, resources, trainings, and other assistance) for community engagement and opioid prevention planning.

Letters of support (10 points): Letters of support are strongly encouraged. Letters should be from community organizations or agencies that the applicant has worked with or plans to work with regarding opioid prevention planning and/or behavioral health strategies. Letters of support will not be counted toward the page limit of the project narrative section of the application.

Contract application (5 points): Complete the [DCTS Annual Grant/Contract Application, F-21276](#), with a work plan that addresses how each of the goals of this grant will be accomplished. The goals should be [Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound \(SMART\)](#).

Budget worksheet (5 points): Complete the [DCTS Summary Line Item Budget, F-01601](#).

If you are experiencing issues accessing the required forms for your application, visit the [DHS Forms Library](#) and use the form number to search for the form.

Application process

Completed applications must be emailed to [Elizabeth Adams](#) by 11:59 p.m. August 31, 2022. Late applications will not be accepted.

An email confirming receipt of the application will be sent within three business days. Applicants who do not receive an email confirmation within three business days should contact Elizabeth Adams at 608-733-0140

Completed applications will include the following email attachments.

- The cover page and project narrative as a PDF or a Microsoft Word document.
- A completed [DCTS Annual Grant/Contract Application, F-21276](#), using [SMART objectives](#).
- A completed [DCTS Summary Line Item Budget, F-01601](#).
- A completed [Certification Regarding Debarment and Suspension, F-01788](#).

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All questions about this request for applications must be emailed to [Elizabeth Adams](#).

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