



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health

TOMÁS J. ARAGÓN, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Director and State Public Health Officer



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

DATE: April 10, 2024

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA) FOR HIV PREVENTION
DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, PROJECT EMPOWERMENT 2024-28

Funding for this RFA is established in California Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 120780.5. Upon an appropriation in the annual Budget Act, California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS (CDPH/OA) shall award funding, on a competitive basis, to community based organizations (CBOs) or local health jurisdictions (LHJs) to provide comprehensive human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention and control activities for the most underserved individuals living with, or vulnerable to HIV. As indicated by HIV surveillance data, the populations most vulnerable to HIV are Black/African American (AA) and Latinx populations.

Project Empowerment recognizes the strength and resilience of Black/AA and Latinx communities and intends to build up and empower these diverse communities that have been underserved by existing HIV prevention and health care systems by leveraging resources to focus on serving these communities. Project Empowerment supports the strategic planning and implementation of innovative and culturally responsive programs that reduce health inequities, HIV related stigma, medical mistrust, and barriers to HIV prevention, care, and treatment services. Through trauma-informed care and other [effective approaches](#), projects will advance community health and wellness while understanding the current and historical trauma that adversely impacts Black/AA and Latinx health outcomes.

For the purposes of this funding, CDPH/OA defines “innovative” as the application of new ideas and/or promising practices to address the needs of Black/AA and Latinx people as demonstrated by data. This also includes the advancement of existing programs or approaches that have been successful in serving Black/AA and Latinx people. Programs must use funding to improve comprehensive HIV prevention and control activities including, but not limited to: (a) HIV testing, (b) linkage to and retention in care, (c) PrEP and PEP, and (c) syringe services programs and/or harm reduction activities. Funding will also be allocated toward community organization and outreach, and staff capacity building activities.



Eligible applicants may include individual CBOs and LHJs, as well as collaborations between CBOs and LHJs. Agencies that provide health care and/or linkage services may also apply; examples include Federally Qualified Health Centers, other community clinics, hospital emergency departments, other facilities where medical care is provided, and other government bodies. Applicants located in any California county are eligible to receive funding. Not less than 50% of the total funds awarded in this RFA shall be provided to CBOs.

The [Project Empowerment RFA is available on the CDPH/OA website](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OA-RFA-24-10049.aspx):
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OA-RFA-24-10049.aspx>

Please note the following important dates:

- [Project Empowerment Community Zoom Webinar](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83638738608?pwd=YYT5KOUUn0f1jeTzainCMDPIGgZrMpN.1) will be held on **Thursday, April 18, 2024** from **2:00 PM to 3:30 PM PST**:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83638738608?pwd=YYT5KOUUn0f1jeTzainCMDPIGgZrMpN.1>
Meeting ID: 836 3873 8608
Passcode: 660466
- [Questions about the Project Empowerment RFA](mailto:ProjectEmpowerment@cdph.ca.gov) must be submitted in writing via email to ProjectEmpowerment@cdph.ca.gov by Wednesday, **April 24, 2024** by **5:00 PM PST**.
- Questions and responses will be posted on the RFA landing page on **Monday, April 29, 2024** by **5:00 PM PST**.
- Mandatory electronic Letter of Intent (LOI) is due on **Thursday, May 2, 2024** by **5:00 PM PST**. RFA Attachments will only be sent to those who submit an LOI.
- Electronic applications must be submitted by **Thursday, June 6, 2024** by **5:00 PM PST**. Late applications will not be accepted.
- Please see the RFA for LOI and application submission information.

If you have [any questions about the information in this letter](#), please send an e-mail to ProjectEmpowerment@cdph.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Marisa Ramos, Ph.D.
Office of AIDS Division Chief
Center for Infectious Diseases
California Department of Public Health