



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



ERICA PAN, MD, MPH, FIDSA, FAAP
Director and State Public Health Officer

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

March 17, 2025

To: All Interested Parties

Subject: Request for Applications (RFA) for HIV Prevention Demonstration Projects, Rapid Antiretroviral Therapy (ART), 2025-27

Health & Safety Code (HSC) Section 121287 allows CDPH/OA to establish, through a competitive award process, public health demonstration projects, which must be innovative, use evidence-based approaches to provide outreach, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) screenings and provide linkage to and retention in care for the most vulnerable and underserved populations in the State. CDPH/OA defines “innovative” as the application of new ideas and/or promising practices to address the needs of priority populations as demonstrated by data.

The purpose of this RFA is to fund the development of innovative, stigma-free, culturally and linguistically competent, evidence-based demonstration projects that will deliver rapid ART to people living with HIV (PLWH). For the purposes of this RFA, “rapid ART” is defined as the client starting ART within 0-7 days.

Projects must serve individuals from the most underserved populations that are most disproportionately affected by HIV and must do so by implementing a combination of in-person and telehealth services. As indicated by 2022 HIV surveillance data, the priority populations that are most vulnerable to HIV are Black/African American and Latinx individuals. Applicants may also propose to serve other subpopulations for which local and/or national data indicates a disproportionate impact by HIV, including men who have sex with men (MSM), trans women, trans MSM, cisgender women, people who inject drugs (PWID), and/or people experiencing homelessness; however, CDPH/OA will consider other populations for which local data indicates a disproportionate impact by HIV.

Projects will include rapid ART start, medication adherence counseling, follow-up and education using a combination of in-person and telehealth methods to improve retention in care and increase viral suppression rates. Additionally, projects will educate clients, medical providers, clinic/agency staff and the community about the concept and principles of U=U. Through these program components, the resulting projects will substantially reduce the time to viral suppression for PLWH, provide clinical benefits to



clients and reduce risk of HIV transmission. Projects may also include a street outreach component and may use this funding to develop the linkages and relationships with street outreach.

Eligible applicants for this funding include: 1) any local health department (LHD) in California, and 2) any community-based organization (CBO) located within any local health jurisdiction (LHJ) in California. County-owned or affiliated system emergency departments are also eligible to apply. Visit this [webpage for a member listing](#).

The [Rapid ART RFA](#) is now available on the CDPH/OA website:
www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/RFA-25-10047.aspx

Please note the following important dates:

- Rapid ART Pre-Application Webinar will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday, March 26, 2025, from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM Pacific Time**. [Join the webinar](#) at: us06web.zoom.us/j/86377223305?pwd=KSWUH2dDLT0lwn1M3V9lfs8wqyGLzh.1 **Meeting ID:** 863 7722 3305, **Passcode:** 042127
- Questions about the Rapid ART RFA must be submitted in writing by email to RapidART@cdph.ca.gov by **Friday, March 28, 2025, by 5:00 PM Pacific Time**.
- Questions and responses will be posted on this RFA landing page on **Tuesday, April 8, 2025, by 5:00 PM Pacific Time**.
- Mandatory electronic Letter of Intent (LOI) is due on **Friday, April 11, 2025, by 12:00 Noon Pacific Time**. RFA Attachments will be sent to those who submit LOI.
- Electronic application submission is due on **Monday, April 28, 2025, by 5:00 PM Pacific Time**. 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 RapidART@cdph.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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