

## HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Client Navigator Projects

### Questions and Answers for RFA #15-10916

February 1, 2016

- 1. The RFA states that there is an annual amount of \$1.76 million available in funding for this initiative. Is there a min/max award amount per year for a grantee?**

No, there is not a minimum or maximum award per year. OA will determine the final funding levels for each program based on responses to this RFA and local factors including geographic area, HIV prevalence, and other PrEP implementation dollars available in the area.

- 2. How many awards do you anticipate allocating? Is there a maximum number of awards?**

There is no maximum number of awards, and we are unable to reasonably predict the number of awards that will be allocated. The PrEP Navigation Services RFA is meant to support multiple possibilities. We anticipate applications ranging from those proposing a broad network of services serving a large at-risk population to those whose PrEP navigation needs are less complex, less costly, and serving a smaller at-risk population.

There is always a careful balance to be struck between funding too few and too many projects. Each proposal will be judged on its own merits, and there are many possible approaches to PrEP navigation encompassing various funding levels.

- 3. Is there a match requirement?**

There is no match requirement.

- 4. It says that the funding period is April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2019: Does the project start date have to be 4/1/16? Or could it be 7/1/16 instead?**

We realize that there may be a ramp-up phase for initiating new programs. We wouldn't expect all grantees to necessarily start seeing clients as of April 1, 2016, but we would expect to see foundational and preparatory work taking place as of April 1, 2016.

We understand this may impact the applicant's proposed budget. The budget period of 4/01/16 through 6/30/16 would reflect ramp up costs prior to project start.

**5. Is there an FTE requirement for the PrEP Patient Navigator?**

There is no FTE requirement for PrEP Patient Navigators. The FTE should be in line with the scope of the proposal. It is important to note that the role of the PrEP Navigator encompasses a wide range of activities. Depending on how staffing roles are defined, in some cases there may be crossover with other activities required by the RFA such as program marketing. All of this could impact your FTE determination.

**6. According to the announcement, “OA will determine the final funding levels for each program based on RFA responses and local factors including geographic area, HIV prevalence, and other PrEP implementation dollars available in the area.” How will “other PrEP implementation dollars available in the area” be taken into account, as CDC PS15-1506 and other PrEP funding will not have been distributed to individual CBOs when the RFA application is due on February 17<sup>th</sup>? Although several geographic areas have received PrEP funding, it is still unclear how this funding will be distributed to individuals CBOs.**

An entity responding to this RFA that is already receiving (or in a jurisdiction receiving) PrEP-related funding, and local PrEP implementation funding will not be directly compared on a dollar-to-dollar basis across RFA applications. This information is intended to be part of a general snapshot that will help us assess local and statewide need as one component of the application evaluation process.

**7. Is there a maximum award amount? What do you expect will be the average award amount?**

There is not a maximum award amount, and at this time we are unable to predict an average award amount. Some RFAs are structured in a way that allows them to provide this sort of estimation, and we understand that having that information can be helpful when preparing a proposal, but it does not apply in this case.

Because it's so important to see PrEP made available to high-risk HIV-negative persons statewide, we are hoping to see an array of proposals reflecting a wide range of funding requests.

**8. Would you consider funding just one award for the total \$1.76 million annual amount?**

While the RFA does not explicitly exclude this possibility, it is not a realistic option because we expect to receive more than one excellent proposal! It is impossible to say at this point exactly how funds will ultimately be allocated, but a single award would not reflect the purpose of the funding, which is meant to help address PrEP navigation service needs on a statewide basis, unless the single award proposed to cover the needs of high-risk HIV-negative persons throughout much of the state.

However, this may be a good place to point out that OA encourages eligible entities to submit collaborative applications if doing so would result in more effective programs across a region, for example.

**9. In preparing the budget sections is there an annual range (minimum and maximum) that applicant should attempt to stay within?**

No, not specifically. Your budget section just needs to be congruent with your scope of work and reflect (if needed) differing requirements across project years from startup to conclusion.

**10. Will there be a Community Education component?**

RFA requirements include program marketing and outreach. Depending on local needs for any given applicant, this can encompass community education for both providers and consumers.

**11. We are preparing a response to another important RFA that is due at about the same time as the PrEP Navigation Services RFA. We just don't have the resources to prepare responses to both RFAs at the same time. Is it possible to extend the February 17 deadline for this RFA?**

We will not be extending the deadline. We realize how challenging and frustrating it can be to prioritize resources around multiple important demands. We sympathize with that, but the reality is that there's no time frame for releasing an RFA that will be ideal for everyone – particularly an RFA like this one that is open to many applicants on a statewide basis.

**12. Will there be money to support an innovation project?**

The RFA explicitly states that ideal responses will demonstrate innovation, and we look forward to seeing proposals that include structural or programmatic innovations. The RFA requirements broadly outline components that should be included in a PrEP navigation system, but we hope they include enough flexibility for creative approaches, and we definitely encourage this.

**13. Will grantees have access to technical assistance related to PrEP?**

Yes. OA will assist grantees as needed in accessing technical assistance and capacity building training resources for both clinicians and consumers such as those provided through the Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center (PAETC) and the Centers for Disease Control, among others.

**14. Is there an expectation that we will provide PrEP services beyond navigation?**

The RFA outlines required activities. While there is no specific expectation beyond those activities, the RFA emphasizes that access to PrEP and management of patients on PrEP encompasses multiple systems and services. Proposed programs are expected to be able to provide appropriate referrals, and navigation includes helping clients access services as needed even if the program does not provide these services directly.

**15. Is there a specific format for the LOI? Can you please send me a template for the Letter of Intent that is due for the HIV PrEP Navigator Services Programs?**

There is no specific format requirement for the Letter of Intent (LOI). The instructions for submitting a Letter of Intent are on page 12 of the RFA.