



KAREN L. SMITH, MD, MPH
Director & State Health Officer

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

To: California Conference of Local AIDS Directors
California Syringe Exchange Programs
California Local Health Department HIV Prevention Coordinators
California Planning Group
Office of AIDS Stakeholder Advisory Committee
Other Community Partners

Date: June 15, 2016

Subject: New Opportunity Announcement – the California Syringe Exchange Supplies Clearinghouse

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Center for Infectious Diseases, Office of AIDS (OA) is pleased to announce the establishment of the Syringe Exchange Supply Clearinghouse, a collaboration with the North American Syringe Exchange Network (NASEN). The Supply Clearinghouse will provide a baseline level of supplies to authorized California syringe exchange programs (SEPs) in order to enhance the health and wellness of people who inject drugs and increase the organizational stability of California SEPs. Funds for the program, which were authorized by Senate Bill 75, Committee on Budget, Chapter 18, Statutes of 2015, are ongoing and total \$3 million each year.

All authorized California SEPs will be eligible to apply, and will provide input into the final supply catalog that will be made available to programs.

This program represents the first time the State of California has made funding available to all California SEPs, and reflects growing understanding of the value of such programs in providing an essential safety net of culturally competent services. The collaboration with NASEN brings years of expertise in working with and supplying syringe exchange programs, and a commitment to harm reduction and the people and organizations that practice it.

Eligibility Criteria

In order to receive supplies, SEPs will be required at minimum to provide syringes and other harm reduction supplies, collect sharps waste, provide referrals to drug treatment, HIV and HCV services, and collect and report data about their services. The complete requirements and CDPH/OA guidance for SEPs interested in participating in the Supply Clearinghouse will be posted on the OA web site at <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Pages/AccessSterileSyringes.aspx> by Monday,

June 27, 2016. The CDPH/OA HIV Prevention Branch and NASEN will hold an informational webinar on **Tuesday, June 21st at 11:00 a.m.** to provide information about the new Supply Clearinghouse and answer questions from California SEPs. To join the AT&T Connect Conference go to <https://connect4.uc.att.com/calnet/meet/?ExEventID=82169733>. Call 1- 888-557-8511 and when prompted, enter the Meeting Access Code: 2169733#.

This opportunity is available to the entire state, and SEPs located in all California local health jurisdictions, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, are invited to participate. Local health departments and other organizations that are not currently receiving OA HIV prevention funds are especially encouraged to participate.

We are happy to be able to initiate this program, to partner with NASEN, and to provide support to the programs that have been the mainstay of HIV prevention for people who inject drugs in California for decades. For further information about the program contact Alessandra Ross, Injection Drug Use Specialist, at 916-449-5796 or alessandra.ross@cdph.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Karen E. Mark, MD, PhD
Chief, Office of AIDS

cc: Steve Gibson, MSW
Chief, HIV Prevention Branch
California Department of Public Health
MS 7700, P.O. Box 997426
Sacramento, CA 95899-7426

Alessandra Ross, MPH
Injection Drug Use Specialist
Office of AIDS
California Department of Public Health
MS 7700, P.O. Box 997426
Sacramento, CA 95899-7426

Rachel McLean, MPH
Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator
STD Control Branch
California Department of Public Health
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, 2nd Floor
Richmond, CA 94804