



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



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Director and State Public Health Officer

GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor

DATE: 3/20/23

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA) FOR HIV PREVENTION  
DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, STRATEGIC RAPID ANTIRETROVIRAL  
TREATMENT 2023-25

Funding for Strategic Rapid Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) demonstration projects was established in California Health and Safety Code (HSC) 121287 which allows California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS (CDPH/OA) to establish up to four 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 initiation within 0 to 3 days. Selected applicants will be awarded through a competitive process to provide rapid linkage to, and retention in, quality health care for PLWH and will substantially reduce the time to viral suppression, improving health outcomes for clients and reducing rates of HIV transmission. Projects shall educate clients, medical providers, clinic/agency staff and the community at large about the concept and principles of Undetectable = Untransmissible (U=U).

Projects must be “strategic” in that they intentionally prioritize individuals from the most underserved populations who are most disproportionately affected by HIV. As indicated by HIV surveillance data, the populations most vulnerable to HIV are Black/African American (AA) and Latinx populations and their intersecting identities which may include gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender MSM, transgender women, cisgender women, and/or people who inject drugs. CDPH/OA will consider other populations for which local and/or national data indicates a disproportionate impact by HIV.

Applicants are encouraged to replicate existing, evidenced-based programs and modify them for integration into their agency. Existing Strategic Rapid ART projects may apply for this funding provided their proposal demonstrates that funds will be used to develop a new component, focus on a currently unserved priority population (e.g. trans women, recently incarcerated or recently released, homeless, etc.), and/or serve a new geographic location in their community where there are gaps in service for linkage to care for PLWH.

OA has determined any entity in any county shall be eligible to apply to operate a demonstration project who has the capacity to fulfill the program and administrative requirements outlined in this RFA, including:



1. Any local health jurisdiction (LHJ) in California.
2. Any community based organization (CBO) located within any LHJ in California. Agencies that provide health care and/or linkage services, including mobile health services and street medicine, are included as eligible CBOs; examples include federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), other community clinics, hospital emergency departments, other facilities where medical care is provided, tribal healthcenters and other government bodies, including county jails.

OA looks forward to receiving applications from all eligible entities to support implementation of strategic rapid ART services to improve health outcomes for Black/AA, Latinx or data supported underserved PLWH through several methods by reducing HIV-related health disparities, reducing new HIV infections, and achieving maximal results in addressing the HIV epidemic in California.

RFA available on CDPH/OA website: [Request for Application](#)

Please note the following important dates:

- Strategic Rapid ART Community Zoom Webinar will be held on **Friday, March 24, 2023 from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM PST**. Join [Zoom Meeting](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9308488860?pwd=aUFhd2NWZHQwemt6b3JVVHE4dnNhZz09): <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9308488860?pwd=aUFhd2NWZHQwemt6b3JVVHE4dnNhZz09>  
**Meeting ID:** 930 848 8860  
**Passcode:** Y7QV3g
- Questions about the Strategic Rapid ART RFA must be submitted in writing by email to [StrategicRapidART@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:StrategicRapidART@cdph.ca.gov) by **Wednesday, March 29, 2023 by 5:00 PM PST**.
- Questions and responses will be posted on the [RFA landing page](#) on **Tuesday, April 4, 2023 by 5:00 PM PST**.
- Mandatory electronic Letter of Intent (LOI) is due on **Friday, April 7, 2023 by 12:00 Noon PST**. RFA Attachments will be sent to those who submit LOI.
- Electronic application submission is due on **Thursday, May 11, 2023 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 [StrategicRapidART@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:StrategicRapidART@cdph.ca.gov)

Sincerely,



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