Request for Proposals: Vaccine Ambassador Project
Extension: New Due Date September 13th, 2021 5pm CT

Organizational Partners Overview:

**Center for Disease Control and Prevention**

CDC works 24/7 to protect America from health, safety and security threats, both foreign and in the U.S. Whether diseases start at home or abroad, are chronic or acute, curable or preventable, human error or deliberate attack, CDC fights disease and supports communities and citizens to do the same.

CDC increases the health security of our nation. As the nation’s health protection agency, CDC saves lives and protects people from health threats. To accomplish our mission, CDC conducts critical science and provides health information that protects our nation against expensive and dangerous health threats, and responds when these arise.

**The National Health Care for the Homeless Council**

Since 1986, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council has brought together thousands of health care professionals, medical respite care providers, people with lived experience of homelessness, and advocates. The Council is the premier national organization working at the nexus of homelessness and health care. Grounded in human rights and social justice, our mission is to build an equitable, high-quality health care system through training, research, and advocacy in the movement to end homelessness.

As a membership organization, we bring together Health Care for the Homeless programs, respite programs, and housing and social service organizations across the country. We work to improve homeless health care through training and technical assistance, researching and sharing best practices, advocating for real solutions to end homelessness, and uplifting voices of people experiencing homelessness.

**The National Association for Community Health Centers**

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) was founded in 1971 to “promote the provision of high quality, comprehensive and affordable health care that is coordinated, culturally and linguistically competent, and community directed for all medically underserved populations.”

NACHC:
- Serves as the leading national advocacy organization in support of community-based health centers and the expansion of health care access for the medically underserved and uninsured.
Conducts research and analysis that informs both the public and private sectors about the work of health centers, their value to the American health care system and the overall health of the nation’s people and communities – both in terms of costs and health care outcomes.

Provides training, leadership development and technical assistance to support and strengthen health center operations and governance.

Develops alliances and partnerships with the public and private sectors to build stronger and healthier communities.

Information Request:
Proposals must be submitted to The National Health Care for the Homeless Council, reviewed by partnering agencies and the awardees will be announced October/November 2021. Proposals must be complete in order to be considered. Applications are now due September 13th, 2021 at 5pm CT.

Proposal information:
1. Application with Point of Contact
2. Letter of commitment signed by CEO
3. Budget and Budget narrative (4 pages) – budget worksheet example

Project Description
Project Name: Community Vaccine Ambassador Project
Timeline: Twelve months following execution of contracts, expected to be October/November 2021
Funding: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type of Intervention: To create a Community Vaccine Ambassador Program for Health Center Enabling Services Workforce (Community Health Workers, Outreach Staff, Enrollment and Eligibility Workers, etc.) that increases the number of individuals in three specific populations receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. These populations are individuals experiencing homelessness, individuals with substance use disorders, and individuals engaged in sex work.
Population Focus: People experiencing homelessness (PEH), people with substance use disorders (PWSUD), and people who may engage in sex work (PESW).

Background:
PEH are at increased risk for COVID-19 infection during the pandemic because of congregate living and PWSUD may have increased risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19. There is inherent overlap in these populations since many PWSUD are also experiencing homelessness, as well as overlap with other stigmatized populations such as PESW who face unique risks for SARS-CoV-2 exposure. COVID-19 vaccination for these populations is important; however, these populations experience barriers to accessing healthcare and might have low levels of trust in the medical system due to previous experiences of trauma or stigma. To address these concerns, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends using trusted communicators, such as Vaccine Ambassadors, who can provide vaccination education and information to these populations. Vaccine Ambassadors include outreach workers, peer navigators, and people with lived experience of homelessness or substance use.
**Project Purpose:**

**Goal Statement:** To increase COVID-19 vaccinations among three specific marginalized populations that include people experiencing homelessness, people with substance use disorders, and/or people who engage in sex work.

**Aim Statement:** To improve COVID-19 immunizations by implementing vaccine ambassadors (community health workers, peer navigators) to reach marginalized populations that are at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19. This will be measured by the number of vaccine ambassadors, number of individuals engaged, and the number of individuals vaccinated.

**Main Strategies:** Community health centers or other grantees will hire or expand the role of current staff to be trained by partnering agencies (CDC, NACHC and NHCHC) to conduct community outreach to PEH, PWSUD, and PESW to assess barriers to vaccinations, address competing health/safety/social needs that interfere with getting vaccinated, and increase vaccination update. Strategies include participating in trainings, learning community, shared electronic care plan, communication strategies, and person-centered care to assess systemic barriers to COVID-19 vaccine and build vaccine confidence.

**Eligibility:**
Federally Qualified Health Centers and Look-Alikes, accredited colleges and universities, Native American tribal governments and health organizations, local public health departments. Preference will be given to Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) providers and organizations that are working closely with HCHs for this initiative. Preference is given to organizations that already employ or directly work with Community Health Workers (CHWs). Should be a clinic setting that has existing infrastructure to provide vaccinations.

**Available Funding:** Approximately $2.4 million

**Estimated Amount of Awards:** $45,000 – $200,000, with an estimated 30-40 awards

**Review Criteria:**
- Demonstrated need to increase vaccination rates among any of the three target groups:
  - Persons Experiencing Homelessness (PEH)
  - Persons who use drugs (PWUD)
  - Persons who engage in sex work (PESW)
- Ability to use existing partnerships to advance vaccination rates among target populations in your community
- Established Community Health Worker Program (or similar workforce, i.e. Promotoras, Peer Navigators, etc.) to support onboarding and training of vaccine ambassador
- Data infrastructure to support vaccination reporting
- Budget Justification and Narrative (worksheet example)
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<tr>
<th>Selection Domain</th>
<th>Application Selection Criteria</th>
<th>Points</th>
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| Organizational and Network Capacity      | • Number of patients served  
• Number of CHWs  
• Partnerships (National and State/Regional, local ) working on COVID-19  
• Ability to include this initiative among other initiatives planned for 2021-22  
• Alignment with organizational goals and strategies to meet population of focus  
• Letter of Commitment, signed by CEO  
• Organizational Chart  
• Capability Statement                                                                                                           | 25     |
| Partnerships                             | • Number of partnerships to collaborate on removing barriers to people experiencing homeless, SUD, and engaged with sex for work.  
• Alignment of partnership joint efforts to meet the goals and aims of the vaccine ambassador program.                                                                                             | 20     |
| Adult Immunization Capacity              | • Access to Immunization data sets (i.e., pharmacy, public health data, patient reported outcomes)  
• Ability to report vaccines into electronic format  
• Ability to receive up to date vaccine supply                                                                                      | 20     |
| Budget and Budget Narrative              | • Up to $XXX,  
• Budget and budget narrative are reasonable, within budget                                                                                                                  | 35     |
| specifications, and consistent with market pricing for the work. |