



## COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

C-9

For the meeting of: June 9, 2015

Date: May 15, 2015

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Phillip R. Crandall, Director *PR Crandall*  
Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: Request to Accept Award of Innovation Grant Funds and Approve Letter of Agreement with Partnership HealthPlan of California for the Local Innovation Grant

### RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approves the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)–Public Health to receive and accept a Local Innovation Grant funds award in the amount of \$75,000 from Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC);
2. Approves the Letter of Agreement between DHHS and PHC regarding the Local Innovation Grant funds (Attachment 1);
3. Authorizes the DHHS - Director of Public Health to sign the signature page of three (3) originals of the Letter of Agreement;
4. Authorizes the DHHS - Director of Public Health to approve all future amendments to the PHC Local Innovations Grant Agreement upon approval by County Counsel and Risk Management; and
5. Directs the Clerk of the Board to return the one (1) copy of the certified board report to the DHHS–Contract Unit for transmittal to DHHS – Public Health.

### SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Public Health Funds

Prepared by Megan Montgomery, AAI *mm*

CAO Approval *Amy N. Rosen*

#### REVIEW:

Auditor *MM* County Counsel \_\_\_\_\_ Human Resources \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### TYPE OF ITEM:

☒ Consent  
☐ Departmental  
☐ Public Hearing  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting of: \_\_\_\_\_

#### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor *Bohn* Seconded by Supervisor *Bass*

Ayes *Sundberg, Lovelace, Fennell, Bohn, Bass*  
Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Abstain \_\_\_\_\_  
Absent \_\_\_\_\_

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: *June 9, 2015*  
By: *Kathy Hayes*  
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

#### DISCUSSION:

On December 8, 2014, Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC) issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop local innovation projects that would improve access to health care services through the PHC regions. On January 29, 2015, DHHS-Public Health's North Coast AIDS Project (NorCAP) submitted a grant proposal to assist Medi-Cal eligible groups that are vulnerable to hepatitis C, opiate overdose and HIV (Attachment A to Attachment 1 below).

The Local Innovation Grant funds will be used to support and expand NorCAP's Mobile Outreach Program. Specifically, the Local Innovations Grant will provide hepatitis C testing to intravenous drug users (IDUs); provide naloxone for overdose prevention and overdose reversals to IDU's; provide outreach to young men who have sex with men (MSM) for HIV prevention and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) education; link all uninsured clients to PHC/Medi-Cal; and link all contacts to medical providers and specialty services. This approach is known to establish rapport with marginalized groups of community members and provides a door to needed supports when individuals are ready to receive them.

The funds will allow the Mobile Outreach Program to hire an additional Community Health Outreach Worker (CHOW). By hiring additional staff, NorCAP Mobile Outreach will be able to provide comprehensive harm reduction and prevention programs.

Therefore DHHS requests the Board approves the Letter of Agreement with PHC in the amount of \$75,000 for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of the Letter of Acceptance for the PHC Local Innovations Grant will allow DHHS-Public Health to be reimbursed a maximum of \$75,000 for grant expenditures over the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The grant funds were included in the 2015-16 County Budget Process in Fund 1175, Budget Unit 437, Care NorCAP. There will be no impact to the General Fund.

Approving the Letter of Acceptance for the PHC Local Innovations Grant will support the Board's Strategic Framework by protecting vulnerable populations and providing community-appropriate levels of service.

#### OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

#### ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board could choose not to approve the recommendations; however, this will result in the loss of funding for DHHS – Public Health and the loss of services to the community.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Copy of Letter of Agreement

**Attachment 1**

Letter of Agreement

*between*

Partnership HealthPlan of California

and

Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services



**Letter of Agreement**  
*between*  
**Partnership HealthPlan of California and Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services**

**Recitals**

Whereas, on December 8, 2014 Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC) issued a Request for Proposals to develop local innovation projects that would improve access to health care services throughout the PHC regions; and

Whereas, Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services submitted the attached proposal (Attachment A) for \$75,000 to establish a specialty clinic site; and

Whereas, PHC has awarded \$75,000 in Innovation Grant funds to Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services for enactment of this proposal; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services will provide the services described in Attachment A, starting with receipt of \$37,500 in PHC grant funds and an additional \$37,500 by the completion of the project; and be it

Further Resolved that Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services will provide PHC with the documentation of enactment of the proposed services as required in Attachment B and on completion of the project; and be it

Further Resolved that formalization of this Letter of Agreement shall be sufficient for PHC to issue the funds detailed above.

Signed:

Partnership HealthPlan of California

Humboldt County Department of Health  
and Human Services

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**Attachment A**

**Innovation Grant Proposal from Humboldt County Department of Health and Human  
Services**



4665 Business Center Drive  
Fairfield, California 94534

## Innovation Grant Cover Sheet For Grant Proposals

(Please type or print clearly)

Date: January 29, 2015

### Organization Information

Name of Requesting Organization (or individual): Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services - North Coast AIDS Project (NorCAP)		
Primary Contact: Michael Weiss		Title: Program Services Coordinator
Address: 908 7th Street		
City Eureka	State CA	Zip 95501
Telephone 707-441-5074	Fax 707-268-8495	Email mweiss@co.humboldt.ca.us

### Proposed Project

PHC Region:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northeast Region	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northwest Region
<input type="checkbox"/> Southeast Region	<input type="checkbox"/> Southwest Region
Project Title: NorCAP Outreach and Prevention Program	
Brief Summary of Proposed Project <small>Specific groups such as injection drug users (IDU), the homeless and young men who have sex with men (MSM) face stigma and barriers to accessing appropriate care and services. These vulnerable groups experience increased risk of infectious disease and other adverse health events and may require specialized services. Many of these individuals are often uninsured and Medi-Cal eligible. This grant request seeks to address access to services for Medi-Cal eligible groups that are vulnerable to hepatitis c, opiate overdose, and HIV. The program proposes to provide free hepatitis C testing, free overdose prevention by providing naloxone (opiate blocker) to Injection Drug Users (IDU) and provide HIV prevention education and outreach to young Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM). Each of these populations will be linked to medical and specialty services.</small>	
Counties/ Region Impacted Humboldt County	
Estimate of PHC members Impacted 1300-1500	

### Proposed Budget and Timetable

Project Budget \$75,000	Project Timetable March 1, 2015 - February 29, 2016
Project Director Michael Weiss	Organization Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Service - North Coast AIDS Project



## PROJECT NARRATIVE

### Provider Access Problem

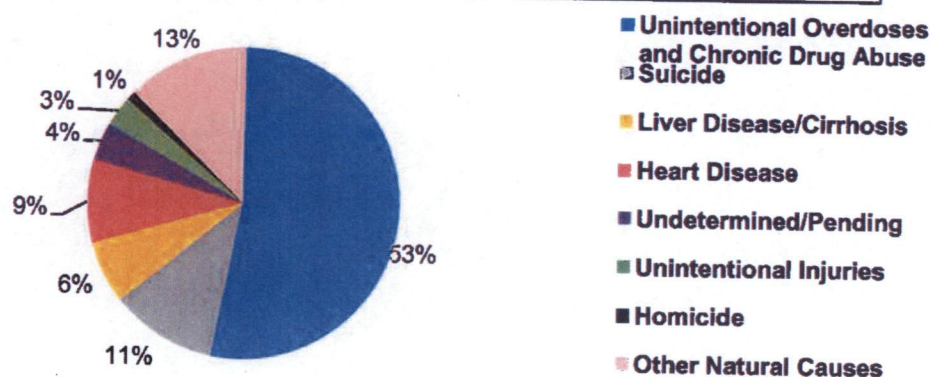
Humboldt County is a large rural and frontier county in Northwest California with an average of 37 people per square mile. Eastern and Southern areas of the county qualify as frontier, with fewer than 11 people per square mile. It is a healthcare provider shortage area, and many individuals have to travel long distances for to access healthcare services. Additionally, specific groups such as injection drug users (IDU), the homeless and young men who have sex with men (MSM) face stigma and barriers to accessing appropriate care and services. These vulnerable groups experience increased risk of infectious disease and other adverse health events and may require specialized services. Many of these individuals are uninsured and Medi-Cal eligible.

This grant request seeks to address access to services for Medi-Cal eligible groups that are vulnerable to hepatitis c, opiate overdose, and HIV. The following provides addition details about the provider access problem for each of these vulnerable groups.

### Overdose Prevention / IDU

In Humboldt County drug related deaths are the leading cause of preventable death for people ages 25-45 years old. See chart below:

**2009-13 Humboldt County Drug-Related Deaths by Cause Type  
(n=324)**



The estimated age-adjusted mortality rate from drug-related deaths in Humboldt County residents is 45.1 per 100,000 persons (Source: County of Humboldt Public Health-Vital Statistics 2014). In comparison, the rate for California in 2014 was 10.8 and the Healthy People 2020 Objective is 11.3. Of all unintentional overdose deaths from 2009-2013 opiate/oid accounted for approximately 25%.

Though not all opiate users are injecting, those who do inject experience stigma related to this particular drug delivery method. This stigma creates barriers to help-seeking and provider access. In 2009, Open Door Clinics closed the county's largest Needle Exchange Program (NEP). In this program IDU's were regularly accessing specialty medical providers, getting linked to Medi-Cal services, and being educated on harm reduction and

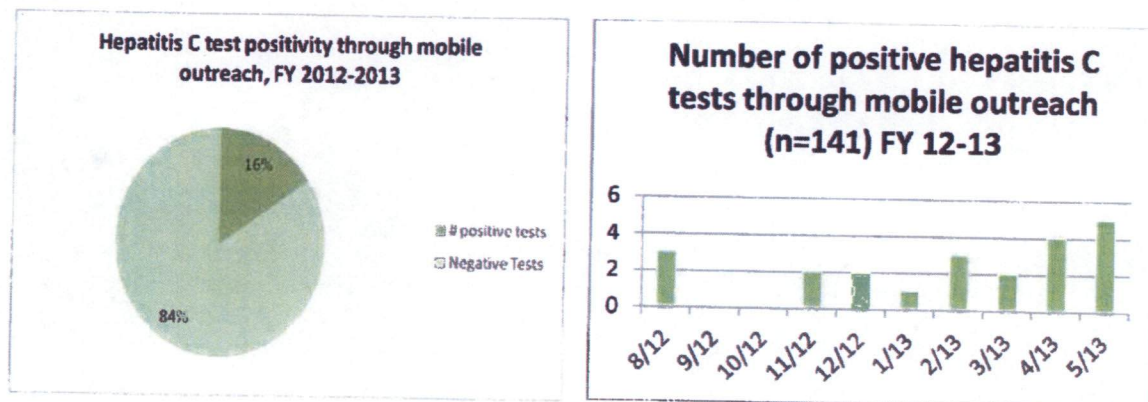


overdose prevention. Currently there are three small NEPs in the county. These programs only partially fill the need in the community. Overdose prevention education is currently offered in two of these NEPs but providing naloxone (opiate blocker) is cost prohibitive.

### Hepatitis C / IDU

Injection drug users face a very high risk of acquiring hepatitis C through sharing syringes and other injection equipment. It is the most prevalent blood borne pathogen in the United States; an estimated 1.6% of the population has the virus. Among injection drug users, this percentage is much higher, between 40-90%. Lack of regular provider access through NEP's and regular education and testing have contributed to IDU's not being aware of their hepatitis C status and not being linked to medical care. Access to clean syringe and safe injection equipment is essential to prevent the transmission of hepatitis C and HIV. Access to naloxone is essential to preventing unintentional overdoses, and can also serve as an incentive for marginalized individuals to reach out for care in the first place (Source: Harm Reduction Coalition).

During the fiscal year 2012 – 2013, NorCAP (North Coast AIDS Project) obtained temporary funding to provide rapid hepatitis C testing to IDU's as an incentive for HIV testing. During this period large numbers of positive hepatitis C results were identified. Staff identified 22 positive hepatitis C results (16% of total tests) out of 141 tests provided.



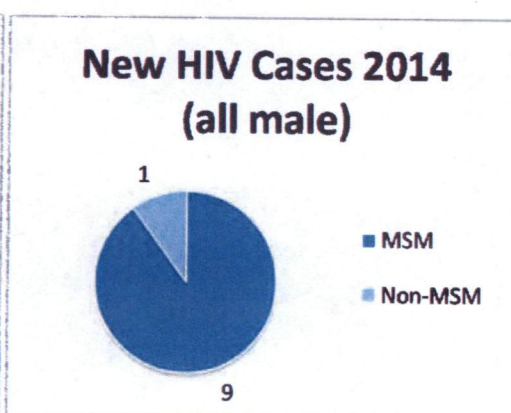
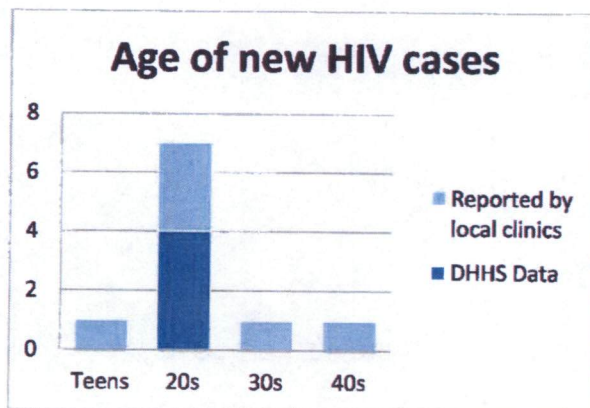
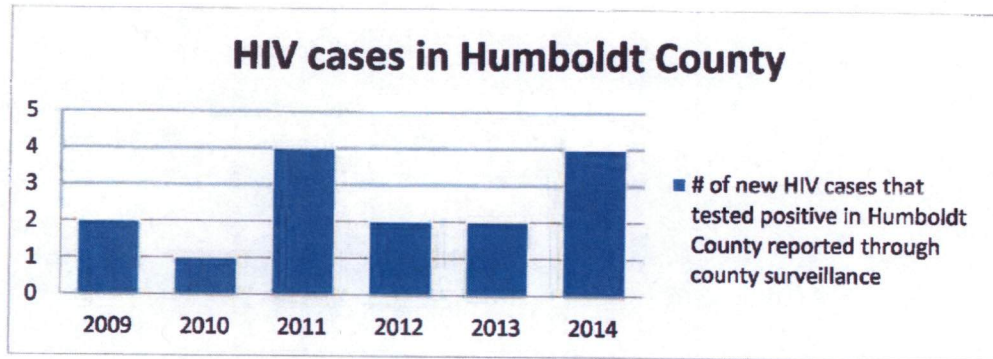
### HIV / MSM

According to the Centers for Disease Control young MSM continue to experience relatively high rates of new HIV infections. Currently the largest increase of HIV diagnosis in the United States was observed among males aged 13-24 (an increase of 132.5%) in 2013 – 2014 (Source: ~ JAMA / Medical News Today 2014). Factors to explain this disparity include the following: Inadequate HIV preventions education and interventions, limited awareness of infection, low perception of risk, alcohol and illegal drug use, and feelings of rejection and isolation. (Source: CDC)

Similarly, in Humboldt County young MSM account for a disproportionate number of the new HIV infections. Open Door Clinics and Redwoods Rural Health Center in Southern Humboldt make up the largest HIV care providers in the county. In 2014, Open Door and Redwoods Rural reported a notable increase in new HIV infections among clients (an



additional six) who received positive HIV test results while living outside of Humboldt County then directly relocating here and entering care. Some clients stated that they also received their HIV tests outside of Humboldt due to perceived stigma in the County. Below are graphs with additional information about new HIV cases in Humboldt County during 2014.



As home of two colleges, Humboldt State University and College of the Redwoods, Humboldt County has a substantial young adult population. There is an active LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgender) community in Humboldt County identified by local non-profits, community events, and high school and college clubs. However, access to culturally competent medical providers is limited. Open Door Clinic is currently the only provider in Humboldt County that is actively prescribing PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) for HIV prevention through their HIV Program. Local LGBT non-profits report that community members often received sexual health medical care outside Humboldt County or are not comfortable talking to their medical providers about sexual health because of the fear of inappropriate medical care due to perceived stigma and lack of provider training related to HIV and other LGBTQ health issues. (Source: Queer Humboldt, Humboldt Pride)

#### **Innovative Strategy**

Funds will be used to support and expand our current Mobile Outreach Program. These increased activities will help link the uninsured to PHC/Medi-Cal and improve access to health care providers and specialty services.



Specific strategies will include:

- Providing hepatitis C testing to IDU's
- Providing naloxone for overdose prevention and overdose reversals to IDU's
- Outreach to young MSM for HIV prevention and PrEP education
- Linking all uninsured to PHC/Medi-Cal
- Linking all contacts to medical providers and specialty services

Funds would allow the program to provide hepatitis C tests and overdose prevention including the distribution of naloxone. Naloxone is a nonscheduled medication used to counter the effects of opioid overdose. Although traditionally administered by emergency response personnel, naloxone can be administered by minimally trained laypeople, which makes it ideal for treating overdose in people who have been prescribed opioid pain medication and in people who use heroin and other opioids. (Source: Harm Reduction Coalition)

These prevention services will be provided in the context of a comprehensive harm reduction program. Harm reduction services include syringe exchange, which was approved by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors in 2012, referral to addiction treatment programs, distribution of safer-sex kits, rapid HIV and hepatitis C testing, linkages to Medi-Cal for eligible individuals, and linkages to medical care and specialty services. This approach is known to establish rapport with marginalized groups of community members and provides a door to needed supports when individuals are ready to receive them.

The funds will allow the program to hire an additional CHOW (Community Health Outreach Worker) that is connected to and specializes in the MSM population. Rapid HIV testing and prevention education will be offered focusing on PrEP. PrEP is a new HIV prevention method (approved by the FDA in July 2012) in which people who do not have HIV infection take a pill daily to reduce their risk of becoming infected. The pill contains medicines that prevent HIV from making new virus as it enters the body. In this way PrEP medicines can help keep the virus from establishing a permanent infection. Delivering PrEP education is an effective part of a comprehensive set of prevention services that includes providing counseling regarding risk reduction, ensuring young MSM who are prescribed PrEP are confirmed to be HIV negative prior to use, providing linkages for young MSM who are Medi-Cal eligible access to primary care and specialty services, and providing regular monitoring of HIV status, side effects, adherence, and risk behaviors.

Planned Parenthood, Humboldt State University Student Medical Clinic, and the Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Clinic see the majority of young MSM and other youth for their sexual health needs including testing for sexually transmitted infections. Outreach staff in collaboration with Open Door will educate other medical providers that see young MSM about PrEP (current HIV prevention strategy and protocols). Young MSM will be educated about PrEP and will be linked directly to medical providers that will offer PrEP services which include regular ongoing medical supervision. Clients of this program who test positive for HIV or hepatitis C will be



supported in connecting to specialty services and a continuum of care including transportation, setting up appointments, connections to other services, and non-medical follow-up.

The outreach activities take place from a mobile van that travels throughout Humboldt County to places where vulnerable groups gather including homeless encampments, low-income housing facilities, alcohol and other drug residential treatment programs, public sex venues (isolated parks/recreational areas), high school and college GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance) clubs, LGBT groups and community events such as Gay Pride. The CHOWs work closely with Health Education Specialists who provide related services such as non-medical case management and medical providers who treat people infected and affected by HIV and hepatitis C.

### **Expected Changes**

This program will reduce the number of unintentional overdoses and increase the number people receiving hepatitis C testing among IDU's, increase the number of HIV testing among young MSM, increase MSM and provider awareness about PrEP, and increase access to medical and specialty services for Medi-Cal eligible individuals.

### **Program Goals**

The goal of NorCAP's Mobile Outreach Program is to prevent HIV, hepatitis C, and accidental overdose, by providing health education, harm reduction services, and linkages to medical care to marginalized individuals, and those who may be unserved, underserved, and inappropriately served. During the program period, March 1, 2015- February 29, 2016, the Outreach Program will:

#### Outreach to IDU and others vulnerable for hepatitis C:

- Provide overdose and hepatitis C prevention to 1000 unduplicated individuals
- Provide 500 Hepatitis C tests to IDU's
- Distribute 300 Narcan Kits to IDU's

#### Outreach to medical providers that serve young MSM

- Educate medical providers that regularly care for young MSM about PrEP.
  - Other providers in the Open Door Clinics system (outside of the HIV program)
  - Humboldt State University Student Medical Center
  - Planned Parenthood
  - Redwoods Rural Health Clinic
  - Department of Health and Human Services Medical Clinic

#### Outreach to young MSM

- Provide 300 HIV tests to young MSM
- Provide HIV prevention education and information about PrEP to 300 MSM
- Connect 50 young MSM to a primary care provider to receive PrEP.
- Connect 100 uninsured individuals to PHC/Medi-Cal

### **Sustainability**

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Public Health Branch is dedicated to maintaining free or affordable outreach and testing services to low income, homeless, and high risk populations in Humboldt County. Partnerships within Humboldt County DHHS Mental Health Street Outreach Services and Public Health Nursing can be explored to establish Medi-Cal reimbursement methods for program activities. Additional partnerships with medical providers and/or community based organizations may also be identified. Staff continues to seek long term alternate funding from public grant programs as well as private foundations. New efforts within the current federal administration to increase funding for HIV/AIDS services and awareness through the Office of National AIDS Policy appear to be promising in the next year.

### **Organizational Capacity**

Humboldt County DHHS, Public Health is committed to promoting community health, disease and injury prevention, and a healthy human environment. NorCAP's "Mobile Outreach Program" is part of the Healthy Communities Division of Public Health. NorCAP has operated since 1986 to provide HIV prevention, testing and non-medical case management services. The program has an established history of building trust, relationships, and serving populations at high risk for overdose and vulnerable for contracting HIV and hepatitis C due to addiction, mental health challenges, and stigma including IDU, MSM, and sex workers. NorCAP's Mobile Outreach has been providing overdose prevention services for ten years. Activities include education on overdose risks and training on reversing opiate overdose, including the use of naloxone, which has been dispensed in kits since April, 2012.

### **Collaborations**

The Outreach Program has a long history of working closely and sharing clients with local providers. The Open Door Clinics System is a Federally Qualified Health Centers that is Ryan White funded and provides the majority of HIV and hepatitis C specialty care throughout most of Humboldt County. Redwoods Rural Health Center provides the only HIV care in Southern Humboldt County (which is isolated). Open Door Clinics and Planned Parenthood will provide the medical protocol education to other providers while outreach staff will provide education to vulnerable individuals.

### **Challenges / Strategies**

The HIV CARE funds currently provided by the California State Office of AIDS, are not sufficient to support the purchase of hepatitis C tests, naloxone, or expanded outreach services to MSM. NorCAP has incorporated PrEP awareness and overdose prevention education minimally into the program. However, current activities do not meet the needs of the community. Appropriate candidates for PrEP often report that their primary medical providers are unaware of PrEP and its protocols. Open Door Clinics HIV program is currently the only provider that is prescribing PrEP due to lack of other provider awareness. Planned Parenthood Eureka Health Center is currently writing protocol to establish a PrEP program. Staff will collaborate with Open Door and Planned Parenthood to build on existing relationships with and other providers that serve MSM individuals to educate providers about PrEP.



## **BUDGET NARRATIVE**

The requested grant budget incorporates the total cost to provide 400 hepatitis C (Hep C) tests, 105 overdose prevention kits and supports a 1.0 full time equivalent (FTE) CHOW.

The salaries and benefits for the CHOW were calculated based on the annual salary \$30,967 and benefits \$23,481. The position will be staffed at a 1.0 FTE and is reflected in the budget as a total \$54,448.

The Hep C tests will be ordered in 4 installments of 100 test kits and 1 control kit per order. Each Hep C test kit order is anticipated to cost \$3,400. 4 orders at \$3,400 per order equals \$13,600.

Naloxone will be purchased for overdose prevention kits. Each kit will contain two doses of naloxone, which is anticipated to cost \$56 per kit. Overdose prevention kits will also include various miscellaneous items, including medical supplies, such as a personal sharps container, gloves and alcohol prep pads at approximately \$4.95 per kit. 105 kits are anticipated to cost \$60.95 each, for a total of approximately \$6,400.

Educational materials will be printed for distribution with the overdose prevention kits such as a prescription for naloxone, instructions in the use of naloxone and training certification. Additional materials will be created and printed for distribution regarding Hep C and HIV prevention related to PrEP information. Informational materials are anticipated to cost \$552.

### **Match Resources**

The Healthy Communities Division of Public Health, of which the NorCAP programs are a part, focuses on outreach and prevention as means to health in the rural areas of Humboldt County. The Healthy Communities Program is largely Realignment funded (\$560,708) and an estimated 50% of this funding is used in support of program areas such as harm reduction/needle exchange, tobacco, alcohol and other drug prevention and nutrition education. Healthy Communities Division programs work to provide referrals in rural areas of the county to medical providers for medical, dental and mental health. Healthy Communities Division programs already provide matching resources such as naloxone (\$2,700), HIV tests (\$2,500), outreach vans (\$11,513), outreach travel (\$1,404) and staff time (0.38 FTE of a CHOW II at \$26,867 and 0.36 FTE of a Health and Human Services Program Services Coordinator at \$37,397).

We are requesting \$75,000 total in funding to provide 400 Hep C tests, 105 overdose prevention kits and informational materials to the community as life saving measures. This funding will also provide the community with a fully dedicated staff-person to provide additional access to health care and health information to the community.



# Innovation Grant Budget

**Organization/Contractor:** Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services - North Coast  
**AIDS Project (NorCAP)**  
**Project Title:** NorCAP Outreach and Prevention Program  
**Project Period:** 03/01/2015 - 02/29/2016  
**Project Director Name/Title:** Michael Weiss - Health and Human Services - Program Services Coordinator  
**Phone:** 707-441-5074 **Email:** [mweiss@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:mweiss@co.humboldt.ca.us)

## A. Project Staff Salary and Benefits

Name	Title	Salary	Benefits	FTE%	Total
Vacant - TBD	Community Health Outreach Worker	\$30,967	\$23,481	100%	\$ 54,448
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
<b>Total Salary and Benefits</b>					<b>\$ 54,448</b>

## B. Other Direct Costs

Item	Description/Justification	Total
HEP C Tests	4 orders of 100 test kits & 1 control kit @ \$3,400 per order	\$ 13,600
Naloxone	105 kits at \$56 per kit (2 doses per kit)	\$ 5,880
Misc. Kit Items	Items including, but not limited to: Alcohol swabs, gloves, personal sharps container, syringes (for administering single-dose Naloxone vials) and packing tape	\$ 520
Informational Materials		\$ 552
		\$ -
<b>If Including Equipment</b>		
Equipment Type	Purpose	\$ -
		\$ -
		\$ -
<b>Total Other Direct Costs</b>		<b>\$ 20,552</b>

## C. Subcontract(s)

Organization	Contact Person	Activity	Total
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
<b>Total Subcontract(s)</b>			<b>\$ -</b>

Project Director

Date

**TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST \$ 75,000**



## Attachment B

No later than June 30, 2016, Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services will provide PHC with the following in order to receive the final payment of the Innovation Grant funds:

- Documentation of the outreach and testing services provided for each of the identified conditions.
- Documentation of the process by which the Department estimates the number of PHC members served and the process for future billing to PHC for eligible services.
- Other documentation, as available, of communicable disease rates and trends in the identified geographic areas and populations.

Upon receipt of the items noted above, PHC will provide the remaining funds.