



Ryan White Part A Services in the Tri-County Region

Request for Proposals (RFP)
Solicitation #: 2018.05.HIV.03.02

**Issued by Public Health Solutions on behalf of the
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

Issue Date: May 25, 2018

The New York Eligible Metropolitan Area (NY EMA), which includes the five boroughs of NYC and the adjacent Tri-County region of Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam counties, continues to have the largest HIV epidemic in the U.S. As of December 31, 2016, 4,023 HIV cases have been reported in the Tri-County region.¹ Of the total number of PLWH in the Tri-County region 80.9% reside in Westchester, 15.4% in Rockland, and 3.7% in Putnam County. It is estimated that an additional 9% of PLWH in the Tri-County region (i.e. another 324 individuals) are unaware of their positive sero-status. As is the case throughout the United States, the Tri-County epidemic continues to disproportionately affect communities of color.

Service Category 1: Food and Nutrition Services

Background: For PLWH in the Tri-County region, access to adequate and appropriate food and nutrition is an ongoing need. Food insecurity is common among low-income individuals and racial/ethnic groups disproportionately affected by HIV. Programs in this category are expected to provide Food and Nutrition Services to PLWH in need of these services. Food and Nutrition Services must also aid in linking PLWH to medical care and in retaining them in care. The program is to support access to and knowledge about healthy foods, as well as provide a variety of high quality food products that help to improve health outcomes for PLWH.

Contract Awards

Hudson Valley Community Services, Inc.
TOUCH - Together Our Unity Can Heal, Inc.

¹ Source NYS Department of Health (NYS DOH), Bureau of HIV/AIDS Epidemiology, data as of September 3, 2017.

Service Category 3: Medical Case Management Services

Background: Despite significant advances in medical care for persons living with HIV (PLWH), there continue to be disparities in health outcomes, especially when looking at access to care and treatment. The Medical Case Management services program seeks to address HIV healthcare disparities by facilitating access to care and other support services. The driving principle of this program is to take a client-centered, holistic and comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of PLWH by assisting participants in navigating the complex medical care and social support services systems. Programs are expected to provide comprehensive and culturally/linguistically-appropriate medical case management services to link clients with health care, psychosocial, treatment adherence, and other support services aimed at improving and maintaining their HIV-related care and treatment.

Contract Awards

Hudson River HealthCare, Inc.
Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center Inc.
Open Door Family Medical Center, Inc.
St. John's Riverside Hospital
TOUCH – Together Our Unity Can Heal, Inc.

Service Category 4: Mental Health Services

Background: When compared to the general population, persons living with HIV (PLWH) are 4 to 8 times more likely to be impacted by a mental health diagnosis. Despite an increase in widespread access to antiretroviral treatment (ART) throughout the United States, HIV outcomes among individuals with mental illness continue to be poor. Programs in this category are expected to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health services that address the barriers to treatment and care among PLWH with mental illness.

Contract Award

Westchester County Health Care Corporation dba Westchester Medical Center
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Service Category 5: Oral Health Care Services

Background: Oral health care is recognized as a component of standard HIV primary care, as HIV infection often manifests orally with disease progression. For low-income, under and un-insured persons living with HIV (PLWH), obtaining basic benefits (i.e. oral health care) can be an enormous challenge. Yet, without adequate dental care, PLWH are more likely to experience negative health outcomes. Programs in this category are expected to provide culturally and linguistically-appropriate, comprehensive oral health care that includes a range of dental services coordinated with medical case management and primary care services.

Contract Award

Westchester County Health Care Corporation dba Westchester Medical Center
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Service Category 6: Psychosocial Support Services

Background: Individuals diagnosed with HIV may require assistance in coping with the implications of their life-long diagnosis. Moreover, grief, fear, stigma, and isolation may make it difficult for a client to engage in and/or adhere to HIV care and treatment. For many individuals living with HIV, medical, social, and emotional challenges are exacerbated by inadequate support systems, economic disadvantage, substance use, and unstable housing; all of which are added barriers to care and treatment. PLWH, especially those impacted by the abovementioned barriers to care, need support in making treatment decisions, adhering to treatment regimens, and establishing stability for their caregivers and children. Psychosocial support services are associated with improved engagement in HIV care for the purpose of improving health outcomes. Programs in this category are expected to provide culturally- and linguistically-appropriate psychosocial support services that address the barriers to appropriate treatment and care among PLWH.

Contract Award

Hudson Valley Community Services, Inc.

Service Category 7: Medical Transportation Services

Background: In many cases, medical outcomes for persons living with HIV (PLWH) depend on structural factors as opposed to individual willingness to seek out and maintain HIV primary care appointments. For low-income PLWH, accessing basic services can be an enormous challenge as transportation remains a key structural barrier to adequate medical care and treatment options. Having reliable transport is a necessity in ensuring that PLWH across the Tri-County region receive increased access to and adequate support in their HIV care and treatment. Programs in this category are expected to provide a single, unified, Tri-County-wide program that provides for maximum transportation coverage, utilizing public transportation, car (or van for the wheel-chair bound) service, and a system to provide for vouchers used to purchase gas, pay for bridge/tunnel/road tolls, and parking when private vehicles are used by PLWH to enable them to receive HIV-related health and support services.

Contract Award

Hudson Valley Community Services, Inc.

Service Category 8: Emergency Financial Services

Background: While medical care and treatment options for persons living with HIV (PLWH) have improved, factors associated with poor health outcomes persist. These include being of a racial/ethnic group disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS, being of a lower socioeconomic status, and being homeless or unstably housed. The removal of barriers associated with access to ART, continuous engagement in medical care, and consistent adherence to ART is paramount in helping PLWH achieve and maintain viral load suppression. Emergency Financial Services seek to address these barriers by providing short term financial assistance when evidence of an emergency situation is present. Programs in this category are expected to provide short-term emergency financial assistance for essential services including utilities, housing, food (including groceries and food vouchers), or medications, provided to clients with limited frequency and for limited periods of time.

Contract Award

Hudson Valley Community Services, Inc.