

Request for Proposal (RFP): FY23 Substance Misuse Coalition Bridge Funding

Description:

The Vermont Department of Health, Division of Substance Use Programs (DSU) envisions a prevention system that delivers equitable and sustainable substance use prevention statewide. Considering recent funding changes, including the addition of approved state general fund dollars to support substance misuse coalitions, DSU has the opportunity to enhance the statewide prevention system to pursue this vision. By overlaying new and existing funding streams and initiatives, Vermont seeks to increase state, regional and community capacity to deliver meaningful substance use prevention in all 12 public health districts. This path forward builds upon the past and current successes with structures to strengthen and bolster existing partnerships as well as create new opportunities to fill geographic and other identified gaps.

As this planning and implementation continues over the next two years, DSU is offering time-limited, interim, bridge funding to substance misuse prevention coalitions over one to two years while a new funding structure is developed. This will ensure that substance misuse prevention is happening in communities and regions across the state throughout the process.

The prevention coalition approach is an effective strategy for addressing substance use and misuse related problems. Coalitions connect multiple sectors of the community – including businesses, parents/guardians, media, law enforcement, schools, faith organization, health providers, social service agencies and government – to collaborate and develop plans, policies, and strategies to achieve reductions in the rates of consumption at the community level. Prevention coalitions are a core component of a comprehensive public health approach to support prevention efforts via a structured planning process that promotes civic engagement and the building of social capital. To qualify for this funding opportunity, coalitions must use evidence-based/evidence-informed and/or promising practices and the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) process and model.

Funding is available across all substances and age-groups to address substance misuse in three identified areas. Applicants are not required to choose all three areas and will generally choose one.

1. Assessment & Capacity Building:

- Building a structure to support strategic planning (Steps 1-2 of the Strategic Prevention Framework);
- Identifying and engaging groups (*e.g.*, parents, youth-serving organizations) that may need a structured starting point or proven theory of change to pursue;
- Assessing and providing support for community readiness through strengthening community skills, knowledge, and resources;
- Identifying risk and protective factors and evidence informed prevention strategies;
- Working towards defined capacity indicators.



2. Implementation:

- Supplementing or expanding existing prevention entities to continue work and build on previous successes; a continuation of the SPF cycle (steps 1-5);
- Continuing to support evidence-based/evidence-informed prevention strategies and environmental strategies focused on upstream prevention with identified risk and protective factors.

3. Innovation/Special Populations:

- Reaching special populations including but not limited to LGBTQ+ people, people of color, indigenous peoples, veterans, people living in low-socioeconomic status (SES) households, refugees and English language learners, people experiencing homelessness, people living with disabilities, and people living in rural communities;
- Broadening prevention beyond youth and young adults, including in early childhood or with older Vermonters;
- Implementing promising practices;
- Collaborating and coordinating with community partners and initiatives;
- Linking work to state prevention efforts;
- Addressing upstream or environmental factors that contribute to community health.

Activities must use evidence-based/evidence-informed and/or promising practices and the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) process and model. Base-level expectations related to prevention such as assessment, media messaging, promoting drug take back envelopes, outreach to school partners and community engagement and education are required and all workplans must include a communications and outreach plan. There will be a data collection component to this work which will include at the minimum: a description of specific activities supported by the funds; a description of the number of people served; and information on the outcomes achieved by this investment in consultation with the state prevention team. Additional data collection may be required. This funding opportunity contains state general fund dollars and federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant dollars, so National Outcome Measures (NOMS) reporting may also be required.

Proposals will be scored according to the following criteria (up to 10 points on each):

How likely will the proposed activities improve knowledge about the risks of substance use?

How likely will the proposed activities decrease substance misuse?

Does the proposal reference data sources and a data plan for monitoring the reach and impact of the proposed project?

Does the proposal identify risk and protective factors the project will contribute toward?

How well do the activities integrate with community partners and initiatives and link to state prevention efforts?

How well does the applicant demonstrate internal capacity and resources to effectively implement proposed activities?

Does the overall budget fit the work proposed?

In making funding decisions, DSU will consider reviewer recommendations, as well as an interest in building a balanced funding portfolio that reaches a variety of service areas and at-risk populations across the state.





The organization's current W-9 and a Certificate of Insurance are required to execute a grant with the State of Vermont. Should your proposal be selected for funding, this information will be requested at the time of award notification, if not currently on file.

Minimum Award: \$20,000 Maximum Award: \$50,000 Annual renewal for 1 additional year is likely and dependent on the success of meeting grant objectives and the status of the prevention system re-design and funding structure.

Funding timeline: **Funding for this 2023 Fiscal Year will begin October 1, 2022 and end June 30, 2023 (9 months).**

Proposals must be received by: 4:30 pm September 26, 2022. Questions and Answers: All questions must be submitted in writing to AHS.VDHADAPContracts@vermont.gov by September 15, 2022. Please put "Questions about Prevention Bridge Funding Grant" in the subject line and DSU will respond as soon as possible. No additional correspondence should be initiated on your part unless it is to update your contact information or retract your application. DSU will contact you if there are clarification questions for your application, or if DSU would like to fund your proposed project. Award notification will be sent to the point of contact as soon as possible after proposals are received and scored. If selected for funding, services may begin as early as Oct. 1 and payment will be issued on a reimbursement basis.

Single Point of Contact: AHS.VDHADAPContracts@vermont.gov – other methods of communication are not permitted and shall go unanswered

Organizations must:

Meet state's insurance requirements (see Attachment C, Section 8 on the [DSU's website](#))

Be [registered with the State of Vermont](#).

Not be debarred. [Debarment List can be found here](#).

If your organization does not meet the minimum requirements outlined above, we recommend partnering with a fiscal agent who does meet the above requirements.

To respond to this RFP, you must provide the following information through [this link](#) no later than 4:30pm on September 26, 2022:

Organization name and fiscal agent, if applicable

Organization description

Organization's primary point of contact's name

Organization's primary point of contact's position

Organization's primary point of contact's email address

Provide the following information:

- a. If applicable, the grant number(s) for grants that your organization currently has with the Vermont Department of Health (VDH). Example: 03420-XXXXX
- b. If available, Unique Entity ID (SAM.gov)
- c. If available, SAM expiration

Upload a current certificate of liability insurance providing minimum coverages detailed in Attachment C, provision #8





Upload a description (limit 3 pages; 12-point font, single-spaced) of how your organization will use the funds to address substance misuse related to capacity, implementation or special populations/innovation described in this RFP. It must include a proposed project description, proposed interventions and strategies, and rationale.

Upload a budget that details your anticipated spending that aligns with the proposed activities. Again, please note that funding for FY23 will begin 10/1/22 and end 6/30/23 (9 months). Please be sure to include your organization's indirect rate (usually 10%) in the budget proposal. If your organization has a federally-approved indirect rate, please upload a copy of the cost rate agreement.

Please be aware that any expenses your agency incurs in the preparation and submission of the proposal will not be reimbursed by the State. Your agency's continued interest in providing services and partnering with the State of Vermont is appreciated.

