

Outreach Letter-Rough Draft 2
Outline and Narrative

1. **Purpose** – Important notification of upcoming funding opportunity from the Sexually Transmitted Infections, Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Viral Hepatitis (STI/HIV/VH) Section of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. This request for application (RFA) is to; serve persons at high risk for acquiring HIV, address systemic conditions that increase the risks for acquiring HIV, and reduce transmission of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in all sixty four (64) Colorado counties. Those include but are not limited to sexually transmitted infections, hepatitis, substance abuse and mental health issues.
2. **The funding background** - The Colorado General Assembly enacted legislation C.R.S. 25-4-1213 -25-4-1215 that allocated two percent (up to \$2 million per fiscal year) of the revenue from the Tobacco Master Settlement to fund a competitive grants program for HIV and AIDS prevention and education. The goal of the Colorado HIV and AIDS Prevention Program (CHAPP) is to address local community needs by funding medically accurate HIV and AIDS prevention and education programs based in behavioral and social science theory and research through a competitive grant process. Scientific evidence supports a comprehensive package of structural, biomedical and behavioral interventions as the optimal HIV prevention strategy for reducing transmission and acquisition of HIV infections among high-risk populations. Many of these interventions are listed on effectiveinterventions.org. It also affords the opportunity to align the CHAPP programs and funding to Colorado’s response to the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. Thereby impacting activities of prevention with high risk individuals, early identification of people who are HIV positive, linkage and retention to medical care for PLWH/A.
3. **Type of Partnerships** – The RFA is focusing on partnerships in rural areas that require applicants to identify a network of providers:
 - a. Medical Care
 - b. Substance Abuse
 - c. Mental Health
 - d. Prevention Providers (AIDS Service Organizations or Community Based Organization, Local HD, non-profits that have experience reaching HIV at risk people and providing prevention.)

To outreach to populations identified at highest risk for contracting HIV:

- e. Injection Drug Users (IDU’s)
- f. Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)
- g. African American men and women (AA)
- h. Latino Men and women (Latinos)

Utilizing Approved Prevention tools (When the RFA is released a list of Evidence Based Interventions will be provided as an exhibit):

- i. Social Media
- j. Targeted Sexual Health Education to delay the onset of adolescent sexual activity
- k. Mutual monogamy or reduction of the number of Sexual Partners
- l. Correct and Consistent condom use

- m. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis with oral antiretroviral mircobicides
- n. Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for prevention (including prevention of mother to child HIV transmission (PMTCT)
- o. treatment of sexually transmitted infections
- p. use of clean needles for all injections
- q. and the female condom

The extent to which evidence-based modalities can be combined to prevent substantial HIV transmission is largely unknown, but combination approaches that are truly implementable in the field are likely to be far more effective than single interventions alone.

- 4. **Amount of Funding** – Due to the shortened timeframe for the first year of this funding, the amount available is up to \$100,000.
- 5. **Focus on Rural areas** – Regional maps highlight areas that are not currently funded, the disease burden in those areas. Please take the time to review the 2008-2013 Epidemiological Data by County map to learn how your region is impacted.
- 6. **Timelines** - The RFA will be released on October 1, 2014 and there will also be an Application Webinar available for to help answer any question you may have about this process. Applications are due on November 18th at 12 noon; Notification of Award will be announced on January 22, 2015. The estimated contract start date is March 1, 2015.
- 7. **Removal of barriers for new applicants** - The Letter of Intent is optional.
- 8. **Contact Information** - If you would like more information about this process please contact Maria Lopez at maria.lopez@state.co.us and direct line: 303-692-6417.