

Funded by the CDC through cooperative agreement PS19-1909 – National Harm Reduction  
Technical Assistance Center



# Introducing the Racial Equity Collaborative for Drug User Health

Hosted by **NASTAD**

Supported by **Reframe Health and Justice**  
and **Healing Equity United**

Thursday, June 3, 2021

# Presenters

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Kirsten Forseth

NASTAD, Drug User Health  
she/her



Justice Rivera  
Reframe Health and Justice  
she/they  
ella/elle



Mark Lockwood  
NASTAD, Drug User Health  
he/him

# Housekeeping

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- This webinar is being recorded. The slides and recording will be made available at [nastad.org](http://nastad.org)
- Please mute your line. To ask a question, please use the Q&A box in the lower right of your screen. Audio information is provided in the right column (above the Q&A).

**RECORDING  
IN PROGRESS**

# Agenda

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- More about NASTAD
- More about Reframe Health and Justice
- The Collaborative
- How to Apply
- Questions and Comments

# NASTAD

Harm  
Reduction  
TA CENTER

# About NASTAD

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- **WHO:** A non-profit, non-partisan national association founded in 1992 that represents public health officials who administer HIV and hepatitis programs funded by state and federal governments.
- **WHERE:** All 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, seven local jurisdictions receiving direct funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Pacific Island jurisdictions.
- **MISSION:** NASTAD's mission is to end the intersecting epidemics of HIV, viral hepatitis, and related conditions by strengthening domestic and global governmental public health through advocacy, capacity building, and social justice.
- **VISION:** NASTAD's vision is a world free of HIV and viral hepatitis.

# What we believe

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## VALUE STATEMENTS (Draft)

We believe every person has equal value and dignity.

We believe access to quality health care is a basic human right.

We have an obligation to dismantle systems that perpetuate social and racial injustice.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (Draft)

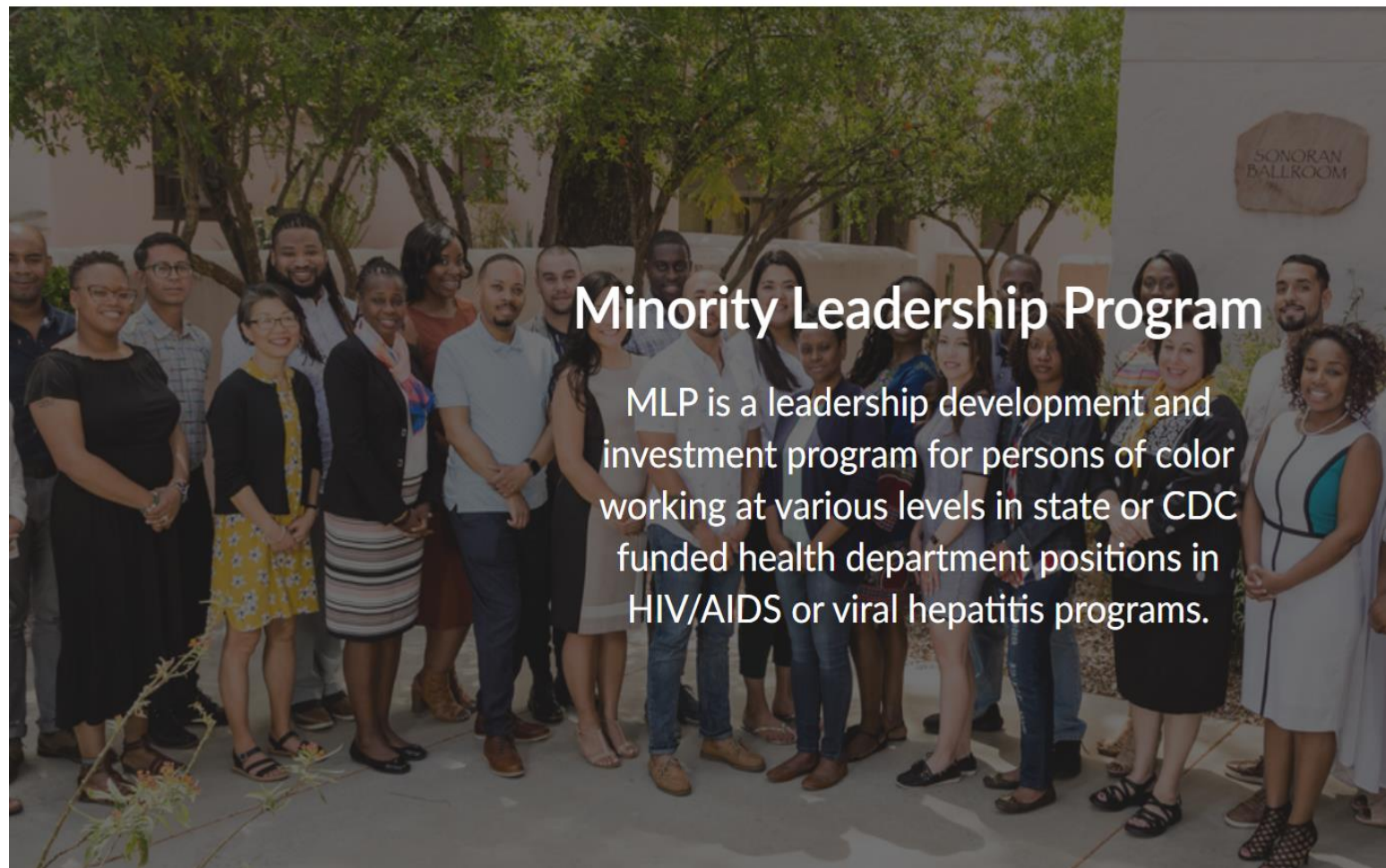




# Workforce Development

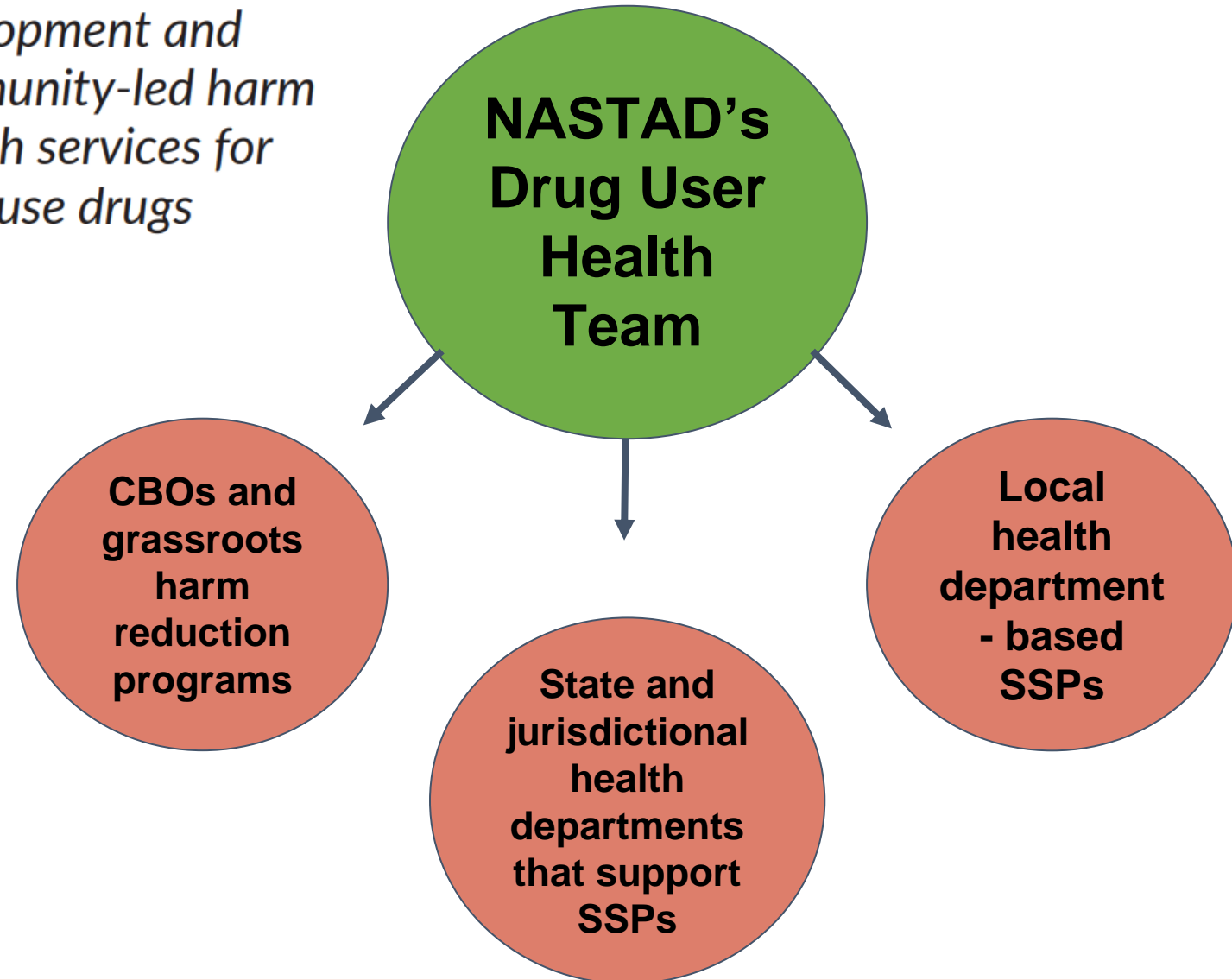
## Minority Leadership Program

- NASTAD has a history of investing in and increasing the capacity of emerging leaders of color
- 8 cohorts
- 113 graduates



# National Harm Reduction Technical Assistance Center

*Supporting the development and evolution of community-led harm reduction health services for people who use drugs*





## White House Centers Harm Reduction and Equity in Year 1 Drug Policy Priorities

## CDC Proclaims Racism Public Health Crisis, Calls for Health Equity

The agency said the systemic racism rooted in unequal social determinants of health burden impacts health for marginalized communities.

## Harm Reduction Services to Get \$30 Million in First-Ever Federal Funding

# Reframe Health and Justice

# About Reframe

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Reframe is a national collective committed to developing and delivering holistic, harm reduction solutions to social injustices

We do this through:

- capacity building
- strategic advocacy
- culture shifting

# RHJ's Philosophy and Approach

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- We hold that structural racism underpins the war on drugs and health disparities
- And that, without intentionality, our systems perpetuate structural racism

Developing BIPOC leadership isn't just about hiring BIPOC staff - it requires a space crafted through a lens of centering BIPOC experiences and leadership with anti-oppression, harm reduction, and healing justice philosophies as the container

# Cohort Design Process

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Consultation with current practitioners in the field helped shape the audience, structure, and content of the program

- Healing Equity United
- NASTAD's MLP
- Health department focus group
- CBO focus group

Led to integration of:

- healing justice component to sessions and program
- focus on organizational structures, funding, coalition building, and power mapping
- Low-barrier deliverable

# About The Collaborative



# The Collaborative

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The Racial Equity Collaborative for Drug User Health is a **pilot program** that intends to create a **supportive space for a cross-career stage and cross-sector group of up to twelve BIPOC\*** navigating the landscape of governmental, nonprofit, research, and philanthropic fields **that support the health of people who use drugs.**

# Program Components

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The program consists of three primary components:

- **10 weekly (virtual) sessions** with collaborative members, facilitated by BIPOC racial equity practitioners
- **A mentorship program**, in which each program participant will be paired with a mentor currently in the field of harm reduction
- **Funds for an individual project** to support the development of a racial equity-focused harm reduction resource for BIPOC practitioners in drug

# Curriculum

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- **Weekly sessions** will take place on Zoom:
  - Every Tuesday from 4:00pm to 6:00 pm ET
  - July 13 - September 14, for a total of 10 sessions
- Participants can expect to **connect three times with their mentor** during this period
- **Weekly office hours** on Wednesdays from 4:00pm to 6:00pm ET will provide an additional space for general support, peer networking, and project planning

# Curriculum

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- Example session topics:
  - Organizational Structures
  - Coalition Building
  - Funding and Sustainability

Each session will be facilitated by **Reframe Health and Justice, Healing Equity United**, and other consultants and experts in governmental public health, community-based organizations, policy and research.

# Application Process

# Who should apply?

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- We encourage all people from communities that are targeted by structural racism to apply.
  - Applicants who have deep lived and relational experience in the communities they serve will be prioritized.
- We are also looking for:
  - Previous or current work experience in harm reduction and/or drug user health
  - Strong understanding of and interest in advancing racial equity and justice in harm reduction

# Cohort Expectations

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1. Cohort participants will make their best effort to attend all cohort sessions.
2. Cohort participants will be active participants in cohort sessions and mentorship sessions.
3. Cohort participants will utilize their grant to support racial justice in drug user health.
4. Cohort participants will communicate feedback as comfortable to NASTAD, and/or Reframe Health and Justice.

# Application

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- Name, email, location
- Organization you would represent as part of this cohort
  - Do you already have the support of your organization to participate?
- Availability to attend all sessions
- Self-described racial/ethnic identity
- Additional questions related to:
  - Demographics
  - Work/volunteer experience in harm reduction and/or drug user health



# Application

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- Tell us about what you do in your work to support people who use drugs.
- How do you integrate racial equity and justice into your work?
- What do you think you will gain from participating in the cohort?
- What do you think you will contribute to the cohort?
- Part of this program includes a mentorship component. Please tell us what you would be looking for in a mentor.

# Application

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- The Cohort Program will include funds for an individual project to support the development of a racial equity-focused harm reduction resource for the cohort member. This resource can take a variety of forms. Please tell us how you may like to utilize the grant money. Your answer will not be binding or affect cohort acceptance.
- Anything else you would like us to know?

# Timeline

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- Application deadline is **June 21, 2021 at 12 PM ET.**
- Applicants can expect a communication regarding their application by close of business on June 30, 2021.
- The Collaborative will start on **Tuesday, July 13 and meet every Tuesday through September 14** between 4 PM - 6 PM ET.

# What can I expect to gain from participating?

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- A mutually supportive space to connect with other BIPOC as co-conspirators in cross-sector change
- Mentors that will aid in fostering the growth, development, and support of each participant
- Resources to complete an individual project related to advancing racial equity in harm reduction and supporting BIPOC practitioners
- NASTAD's support and advocacy on behalf of cohort participants and continued commitment to capacity building and advocacy towards systemic and organizational change

# Selection Process

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## We will be weighing difference with excellence

- Difference refers to a diverse cohort, which will be determined through a matrix
- Excellence refers to an individual's qualifications, which will be determined through a scale of five grading points across four categories: interest, perspective, value given, value taken
- Selections by June 30th



Kirsten Forseth, [kforseth@nastad.org](mailto:kforseth@nastad.org)

Mark Lockwood, [mlockwood@nastad.org](mailto:mlockwood@nastad.org)

Justice Rivera, [justice@reframehealthandjustice.com](mailto:justice@reframehealthandjustice.com)

# Thank you!