

# Expanding Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) Capacity to Respond to COVID-19

RFP Launch Webinar

November 12, 2021 – 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM ET



# ABOUT NASTAD

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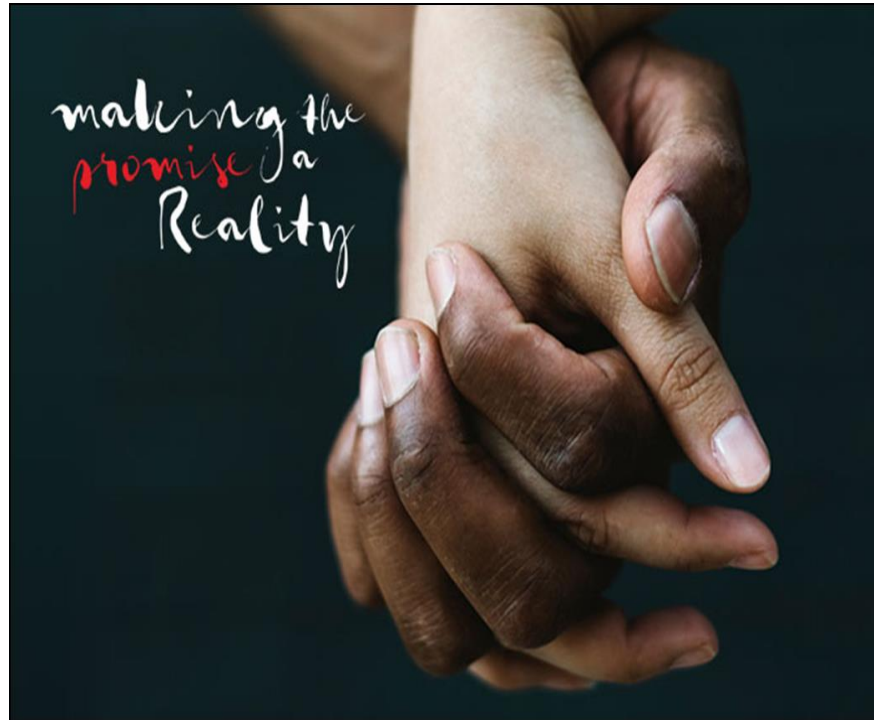
**WHO:** A leading non-partisan non-profit association that represents public health officials who administer HIV and hepatitis programs in the U.S.

**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.

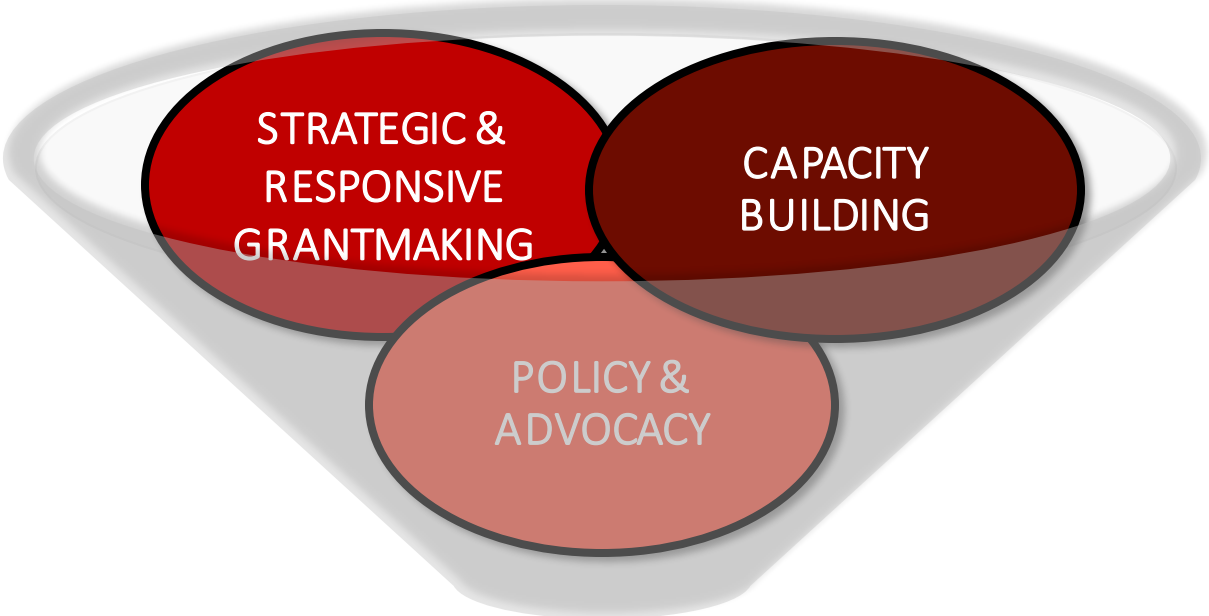
**MISSION:** NASTAD's mission is to advance the health and dignity of people living with and impacted by HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, and intersecting epidemics by strengthening governmental public health and leveraging community partnerships.

**VISION:** NASTAD's vision is a world committed to ending HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, and intersecting epidemics.

# AIDS UNITED



*Community* LEADERSHIP  
BUILDING  
Policy & Advocacy  
**Strategy** Formative Research  
CAPACITY BUILDING Grantmaking  
*Technical Assistance*



ENDING THE US HIV EPIDEMIC





For over 20 years, AIDS United has supported community-driven responses to the HIV epidemic through robust and diverse strategic grantmaking initiatives that reach the nation's most disproportionately affected populations.

AIDS United has an established history of providing low threshold harm reduction grants to advance access to sterile syringes, community outreach and education, and SSP legislative advocacy.

At the start of the pandemic, AIDS United distributed \$70,000 in rapid response funding to organizations impacted by Covid-19 in the United States.



# Project Overview

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In partnership with AIDS United, NASTAD aims to provide implementation funding to support SSPs to expand and ensure continuity of operations to scale-up COVID-19 vaccination and education, while also maintaining harm reduction and infectious disease prevention, including HIV and viral hepatitis, services and referral for SUD treatment.

# Project Aims

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- Engage SSPs in COVID-19 vaccination planning, outreach, and delivery efforts within jurisdictions.
  - Enable SSPs to educate their clients/communities about COVID-19 vaccine, promote vaccination, and address hesitancy issues.
  - Support SSPs to partner with existing vaccination providers to effectively reach PWUD or to become vaccination providers, receive vaccine supply from jurisdictions, and offer co-located COVID-19 vaccination.
- Build SSP capacity and infrastructure that supports COVID-19 vaccination efforts while delivering effective harm reduction and infectious disease prevention services for people who use drugs
  - Assist in development of long-term capability of SSPs to serve as vaccination providers for COVID-19, hepatitis A/B, seasonal influenza, and other vaccines.
  - Support core SSP operations related to infectious disease prevention and control through supporting space, staff, and supply needs (as permissible under federal law) without which reaching this population to provide immunization services would not be possible.

# Primary Intended Outcomes

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- Increased Engagement of Public Health Systems and SSPs
- Capacity-Building on COVID-19 and Expanded Adult Vaccination Services in SSPs
- Increased Financial Resources for SSPs to engage in COVID-19 Education, Vaccination, and to Address Vaccine Hesitancy among PWUDs and Unstably Housed Individuals
- Evaluation of SSP Vaccination Programs and Services and Developing Best Practices and Lessons Learned on creating expanded COVID and other adult vaccination services in SSPs





# Four Core Project Components

**Provide general education and create TA resources related to increased vaccination services, awareness, and capacity in SSPs.**

- Available to the general public, SSPs, and harm reduction programs across the country

**Award 50-70 low threshold grants to SSPs to increase capacity and provide COVID-19 and other Vaccine education and referral to services.**

- Awards will range between \$50,000 - \$100,000 per site for the project period

**Award 6 selected SSP sites to create a COVID-19 Vaccination Services Demonstration Project to increase COVID-19 and general vaccination services.**

- Awards will be \$200,000 per site for the project period

**Award 2 selected SSPs, or drug user health sites, to create Enhanced SSP COVID-19 Vaccination Services and Expanded Adult Vaccination Demonstration Projects.**

- Awards will be \$650,000 per site for the project period



# Core Project Component One

Provide general education and create TA resources related to increased vaccination services, awareness, and capacity in SSPs.

## Project Details

*Available to the general public, SSPs, and harm reduction programs across the country.*

- Resources can include: COVID and general vaccination training curricula; general educational materials tailored to SSPs and PWUDs; best practice guides on participant navigation and referrals; strategies to address vaccine hesitancy among program participants, etc.
- Status of current/needed vaccine related educational materials and services within SSPs will be assessed within current SSP networks and in partnership with our external evaluation team
- Individual TA requests can be facilitated through the NASTAD Drug User Health and AU special project teams



# Core Project Component Two – Tier 1 Funding

Award 50-70 low threshold grants to SSPs to increase capacity and provide COVID and other Vaccine education and referral to services.

*Awards will range between \$50,000 - \$100,000 per site for the project period (1 year with expanded authority to extend its impact beyond the first year)*

## Rationale:

- SSPs are vital frontline health services that are a critical touchpoint for PWUDs and those who are unstably housed
- In order to effectively reach PWUDs with COVID vaccination services, education, and navigation within SSPs it is necessary to increase program capacity and staffing
- All sites will document and report on vaccination efforts, rates of vaccination for participants, either onsite or through referral, numbers of risk reduction counselling and COVID-related education, etc.

## Moving Forward:

- Announcement of funding opportunity and walkthrough of RFP process and eligibility criteria
- Volunteer Review panel will review and score based on all eligibility criteria

RFP Application Details: no more than 6 pages excluding attachments and supporting documentation required.

## Project Details



# Core Project Component Three – Tier 2 Funding

**Award 6 selected SSP sites to create a COVID-19 Vaccination Services Demonstration Project to increase COVID and general vaccination services.**

*Awards will be \$200,000 per site for the project period (1 year with expanded authority to extend its impact beyond the first year)*

## **Rationale:**

- SSPs vary in size, reach, and capacity and offer consistent referrals to other supportive services for medical and behavioral health issues
- Create a COVID Vaccination Demonstration project within current SSPs to build onsite vaccination services, referrals to networks of community providers, and increased vaccine navigation for SSP participants and
- Document development of successful vaccination services and navigation, characteristics of effective programs, challenges/barriers/facilitators of program implementation and successes

## **Moving Forward:**

- Announcement of funding opportunity and walkthrough of RFP process and eligibility criteria
- Volunteer Review panel will review and score based on all eligibility criteria

**RFP Application Details: no more than 6 pages excluding attachments and supporting documentation required.**

## **Project Details**



# Core Project Component Four – Tier 3 Funding

**Award 2 selected SSPs, or drug user health sites, to create Enhanced SSP COVID-19 Vaccination Services and Expanded Adult Vaccination Demonstration Projects.**

*Awards will be \$650,000 per site for the project period (1 year with expanded authority to extend its impact beyond the first year)*

## **Rationale:**

- Create an onsite Expanded Covid Vaccination Demonstration project within current SSP to create communities of learning and practice that can research/create model expanded COVID and other adult vaccination services, create replicable models/best practices, and provide academic detailing for other SSPs in increase onsite vaccination services in the future
- Document development of model expanded SSP-vaccination programs, create resources related to creating/monitoring/evaluating expanded services, and provide TA to additional SSPs on expanded COVID and general vaccination services for program quality improvement
- Document number of infectious disease workforce working with SSPs trained in COVID-19 testing, vaccination, linkage to care, adverse event reporting, managing data, using IIS, and other SSPs reached by services

## **Moving Forward:**

- Announcement of funding opportunity and walkthrough of RFP process and eligibility criteria
- Volunteer Review panel will review and score based on all eligibility criteria

**RFP Application Details: no more than 12 pages excluding attachments and supporting documentation required.**

## **Project Details**

# Project Timeline

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**November 5, 2021** Request for Proposals Released

**November 12, 2021** Project Kickoff / Full Application TA Webinar

**November 18, 2021** Tier 1 Full Application TA Webinar

**November 29, 2021** Completed Application Due to AIDS United/NASTAD

**January 17, 2022** Notification of Funding Decision

**February 1, 2022** Grant Period Begins

**Throughout Grant Period** Monthly/Quarterly Reporting

**January 31, 2023** Grant Period Ends with expanded authority for NCE

**February 28, 2023** Final Report Due

# Eligibility Criteria

- **Vaccination Access** – All SSPs must be located in areas where accessing COVID-19 vaccination and other adult vaccination services is possible.
- **Determination of Need** – Programs must be located in a jurisdiction that has a determination of need concurrence from CDC (see more information and determination of need map here: <https://www.cdc.gov/ssp/determination-of-need-for-ssp.html>). There are currently 44 states and DC, 1 tribal nation, and 1 territory with a determination of need in place.
- **Non-Profit Status** – Applicants must be non-profit, tax-exempt organizations, per the guidelines set forth by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) with proper 501(c)(3) status. Appropriate verification of this federal status will be undertaken by AIDS United/NASTAD before final grant decisions are made. Organizations or coalitions that do not hold 501(c)(3) status must have a fiscal sponsor.
- **Financial Stability** – Organizations should be fiscally stable and viable prior to submission of the funding application. These funds are not intended to serve as a replacement for discontinued funding.
- **Funding Priorities** – Proposed efforts must focus on 1) COVID-19 vaccination efforts for people who use drugs, and 2) syringe access direct services.
- **Grant Period** – Applicant must be able to utilize the funds within a 12-month period beginning February 1, 2022, and ending January 31, 2023 (with expanded authority to extend its impact beyond the first year).
- **NOTE: Tiers 2 and 3 are cost-reimbursable grants so organizations will need to have resources on hand to accommodate the expenses for the first month, after which invoices can be submitted.**

# Application Components

- **Organization-Specific Questions** (e.g., organization type, descriptions, general population/geographic area served, etc. – more detail outlined in RFP)
- **Project-Specific Questions** (brief summary of project proposed)
- **Program Profile** (Organizational overview, #'s of participants, staffing, epidemiological profile, annual operating budgets, etc.)
- **Narrative** – This section should provide a comprehensive description of how your organization will implement the proposed intervention consistent with the program model, a summary of the benefits anticipated for your organization and clientele, and an overview of the agency's ability to successfully meet program expectations.
- **Attachments**
  - [Completed budget template](#). Do not use any budget form other than the one provided by NASTAD or AIDS United.
  - Organization's current annual operating budget, including expenses and income.
  - [Completed Organizational Representation Table](#). Do not use any form other than the one provided by NASTAD or AIDS United.
  - **NOTE:** If awarded, organizations should be prepared to submit additional financial and organizational documentation outlined in the RFPs. This includes an annual audit, financial policies and procedures, organizational governance and roles, fiscal sponsorship agreements (if applicable), etc.



# Application Submission Processes

- **Tier 1** – Applications for this funding opportunity must be submitted via AIDS United's online Grantee Community and are **due by 5:00 PM ET on November 29, 2021**. All components of your application must be submitted by this time. *If the application is submitted with any components missing, it will be deemed incomplete and will not be considered for a grant award.*
- Access the Grantee Community online at [www.aidsunited.force.com](http://www.aidsunited.force.com)
  - Applicants should send questions about navigating the Grantee Community to Shannon Wyss, Senior Grants Manager, at [swyss@aidsunited.org](mailto:swyss@aidsunited.org)
- AIDS United will host a technical assistance webinar, including the application process on November 18, 4-5 PM ET. Register for this webinar [here](#).
- **Tier 2** — Applications for this funding opportunity must be submitted to [druguserhealthta@nastad.org](mailto:druguserhealthta@nastad.org) and are due by 5:00 PM ET on November 29, 2021. Applications must be submitted in Word or PDF format, excluding budget related materials generated in Excel.
- **Tier 3** — Applications for this funding opportunity must be submitted to [druguserhealthta@nastad.org](mailto:druguserhealthta@nastad.org) and are due by 5:00 PM ET on November 29, 2021. Applications must be submitted in Word or PDF format, excluding budget related materials generated in Excel.

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Questions?

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