



## **Request for Proposals**

Leading with Lived Experience Training Consultants,  
Hepatitis Network for Education and Testing (HepNET)

**RFP Issue Date:** August 17, 2022

**RFP Closing Date:** August 31, 2022

**Performance Period:** ~12 Months (September 12, 2022 – September 29, 2023)

NASTAD anticipates contracting with two consultants for this RFP.

NASTAD and partners are seeking applications for our Leading with Lived Experience (LLE) Consultant Cohort. LLE Consultants will be paid to participate in a training course on leadership from the perspective of lived experience with viral hepatitis and/or harm reduction services. LLE Consultants will then be contracted to facilitate a learning community through the Hepatitis Network for Education and Testing (HepNET).

### **Overview**

NASTAD is funded to lead, implement, and facilitate the [Hepatitis Network for Education and Testing](#) (HepNET), to accelerate coordinated strategies in states and communities through expanding a national, state and local coalition network. Through this cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NASTAD and its partners National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR) and National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) will work with state and local health departments (LHDs), community-based organizations (CBOs), clinical providers, people with lived experience, syringe services programs (SSPs) and harm reduction programs, and other key partners to identify and address the unmet needs of people who inject drugs (PWID) and improve their access to viral hepatitis education, prevention, testing, linkage to care, and treatment.

### **HepNET Learning Communities (LC)**

An additional HepNET component includes Learning Communities (LC), where NASTAD and partners provide capacity building assistance to a smaller group of targeted jurisdictional teams to improve testing and linkage to care strategies for PWID while sharing lessons learned with the broader national network. These cohorts will include organizations representing at least one of each of the following: state health

department (HD), local health department (LHD), federally qualified health center (FQHC) or other healthcare setting, harm reduction and/or behavioral health service provider, and a hepatitis patient advocate with lived experience of drug use. LC Members will connect with peers, develop or strengthen connections with interagency partnerships, access subject matter experts, network across agencies, and explore promising practices to address viral hepatitis and injection drug use. Each LC Cohort will convene for five months with monthly quality improvement assessments and resource development.

### **Description of Contract (Scope of Work)**

Critical to the HepNET network and Learning Communities is partnership with and engagement of people with lived experience of drug use. NASTAD is seeking consultant(s) to support partnership with and engagement of people with lived experience (PWLE) in HepNET and to collaborate with NASTAD and its partners to provide technical assistance (TA) to expand viral hepatitis testing and linkage to care for people who inject drugs (PWID). The selected consultants will work collaboratively with HepNET staff to implement the following activities:

- Participate in a five-month virtual training series to build knowledge and skills on viral hepatitis, harm reduction, and on leading with lived experience;
- Coordinate and provide ongoing individual and group technical assistance to Learning Community Members;
- Support Learning Community Member's planning and initiating as they work to establish action plans for new collaborations and partnerships in their jurisdictions;
- Deliver select presentations and facilitate Learning Community sessions as needed;
- Facilitate office hours and provide technical assistance to Learning Community Members, as requested.

This is a contractual position. Work will be assigned on an as-needed basis to complete contract deliverables. This position is not full-time, and contracts will vary based on request volume and needs.

NASTAD anticipates that this scope of work would translate into approximately 5-10 hours of work per month for each selected consultant based on the specific assignments as mutually agreeable. The virtual training series will offer a stipend per completed module. The technical assistance provided to the Learning Communities will be paid per hour. This technical assistance project will be conducted virtually.

## **Proposal Application and Submission**

*We consider inclusion and equity to be a top priority for the program, including those with lived experience. We recognize that to achieve the 2030 goal to eliminate viral hepatitis, our workforce and professional development programs must be representative of groups that have been disproportionately impacted. This opportunity is open to people with lived experience with viral hepatitis and/or drug use.*

Interested persons and organizations should apply by submitting the following:

- Cover Letter (required) – A 2-3 paragraph letter expressing interest in becoming an LLE Consultant, requested hourly rate, and describing expertise within viral hepatitis, drug use, and harm reduction services.
- CV/Resume (recommended) – Documenting relevant work history and related experience.
- Any other materials demonstrating your work or lived experience relevant to the project (optional).

All materials should be submitted to NASTAD's Hepatitis Team at [hepatitis@nastad.org](mailto:hepatitis@nastad.org) by **August 31, 2022**. The subject line should read: "LLE Consultant RFP Application."

## **Selection Process**

Before finalizing the selection process, NASTAD may invite a small number of applicants to participate in brief interviews to clarify expectations and further assess the candidate.

Given the number of proposals expected, NASTAD will only contact applicants of interest.

## **Questions and Concerns**

Inquiries about this RFP are encouraged. If you have questions about whether you should apply or questions about this RFP, please email Jasmine West at [jwest@nastad.org](mailto:jwest@nastad.org).