



Substance Use and Overdose Prevention in Latinx Communities Grant

Background

Drug overdose deaths have escalated across the nation over the last two decades. In 2019, rates of overdose for all drugs in Washington State soared. In 2021 across Washington, 2,264 community members died as a result of overdose. Preliminary 2022 data indicate a likely further increase of 27% this year.

In 2022, the Washington State Legislature approved funding for education and outreach programs focused on prevention of substance use and overdose in Latinx communities across the state. Data show overdoses are increasing in Latinx communities, and these communities face unique barriers to accessing related services. Understanding that Latinx communities are not homogenous and that prevention strategies should be targeted to meet specific community needs, a grant funding opportunity has been created to meet community-specific priorities.

The Injury and Violence Prevention (IVP) Section at the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), partners with a range of stakeholders in Washington to address the overdose crisis. Initiatives include data collection and analysis, identifying barriers or challenges to overdose and substance use prevention, collaboration to determine possible solutions, and the support of harm reduction services for effective public health programming.

The IVP Section at DOH is requesting grant proposals from organizations to support efforts in substance use and overdose prevention in Latinx communities in Washington State. The purpose of this grant is to fund efforts in prevention and response to opioid and other substance use, and overdose. Funding may be used to support a range of activities and resources that 1) are culturally and linguistically responsive and 2) promote individual, family, and community wellness.

Who can apply?

Latinx or Latinx-serving organizations of all sizes that provide outreach, education, and/or services to Latinx communities in Washington State are welcome to apply for grant funding. Interested organizations may already provide substance use and overdose prevention education, activities, or resources; **OR** interested organization may propose adding substance use and overdose prevention education, activities, or resources to their current activities.

To be eligible to apply for a grant agreement, applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Any 501(c)(3) organization registered with the Washington Secretary of State and located in Washington that provides culturally responsive services to Latinx communities in Washington.
2. Organizations must hold commercial general liability insurance covering bodily injury and property damage of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
3. All grantees must abide by state and federal civil rights laws, unless otherwise exempted by federal or state law. Specifically, people participating in DOH-sponsored activities or programs may not be treated unfairly because of race, color, national origin, disability, gender expression or identity, marital status, national origin, religion, sex, or sexual orientation.

How much funding is available?

Organizations interested in implementing only substance use and overdose prevention and awareness media campaigns may apply for up to \$30,000. Organizations interested in providing awareness campaigns as well as direct outreach to and resources for community members may apply for up to \$100,000. This funding is available on a one-time basis. A total of \$400,000 is available for grants. All funds must be used by June 30, 2023.

What does the application include?

The application includes sections for information about your organization, a project description or work plan, narrative questions, and a budget worksheet with narrative. Applicants' budgets may include costs directly connected to the activities being proposed in the application. These may include salaries, benefits, in-state travel, good and services (including supplies), and equipment. Up to 15% of funding may be used to pay for administrative expenses. Please review the instructions on the first tab of the budget document for more information.

When are applications due?

Applications must be submitted by **December 5th, 2022**, to Jennifer Dieguez at Jennifer.dieguez@doh.wa.gov. Applications will be reviewed by agency staff and applicants will be notified in December about the outcome of their application. It is anticipated grants will be available in February 2023.

Use of Funds

- Use of funding is limited to grantees' approved budget and activities described in the grant statement of work. The grant statement of work will be based on the proposed project.
- Funding for administrative expenses is limited to 15% of total project proposal budget.

- Funds may not be used for:
 - Research
 - Out-of-state travel
 - Clinical care or substance use treatment
 - Direct financial assistance such as participant's or community member's rent, utilities, or transportation
 - Support of any form of lobbying activity related to legislation, appropriations, regulation, administrative action, or an executive order.

Intent of Grant

Proposed activities should connect to anticipated outcomes that aim to prevent or reduce substance use and overdose. Projects should implement activities with one or more of the following anticipated outcomes:

- Increased access to culturally appropriate information and activities focused on preventing substance use and overdose.
- Increased community awareness of:
 - Risks of substance use.
 - Signs of and responses to overdose.
 - Availability of harm reduction and other support services to promote wellness.
- Increased protective factors to foster wellbeing, such as:
 - Strengthen economic support for individuals and families.
 - Promote social norms that protect against harm.
 - Provide linkages to care that meets people's self-identified needs.
- Decreased rate of opioid or other substance misuse.
- Decreased nonfatal and fatal drug overdose rates.

Funded Activities

DOH is seeking interested organizations to propose activities based on community-specific priorities. If you do not see activities herein that would most benefit your community, please propose other priority activities that better support your community.

Activities and resources funded by this grant must include outreach and awareness efforts focused on substance use and overdose prevention in Latinx communities. Proposed activities may support education in more than one public health area but must include substance use and overdose prevention and response. Activities and resources may also include linkages to care as described below.

Organizations proposing solely the development and implementation of awareness and prevention media campaigns may apply for up to \$30,000. Organizations proposing awareness and prevention media campaigns as well as direct, in-person activities may apply for up to \$100,000. **Note:** For the second type of proposal, in-person activities should represent at least 60% of proposed activities.

Example Outreach and Awareness Prevention Activities

- Convening community stakeholders to:
- Identify detailed community priorities for the prevention of substance use, substance use disorder, and overdose.
- Develop and implement an action plan.
- Adapt plan's approaches using community feedback and lessons learned.

- Providing prevention focused community engagement and education that describes and reduces risk of substance use and overdose. Examples of activities include, but are not limited to:
 - Creating educational outreach programs focused on areas such as:
 - Types of substances, especially opioids including illicit fentanyl.
 - Recommendations for how to help if you know someone who is using opioids or other substances.
 - Potential signs of substance use disorder.
 - How to respond during a suspected opioid overdose, including how to administer naloxone.
 - Safe storage of medications at home.
 - Adapting existing resources to provide culturally specific trainings to promote community readiness when responding to overdose and substance use.
 - Identifying the most appropriate and effective media platforms to deliver substance use and overdose prevention messaging such as radio, online, social media, or other types of media campaigns.
 - Creating radio novelas or foto novelas and related materials in Spanish and English.
- Hosting events, workshops, or other forms of in-person outreach to share information about substance use and overdose prevention.
- Delivering programming or education to targeted audiences, such as, but not limited to:
 - Teaching parents effective ways to monitor and communicate with their children regarding substance use.
 - Hosting positive youth recreational activities and outlets for risk-taking behaviors to support harm reduction efforts and build awareness.
 - Engaging with participants in activities using education and skill building exercises to strengthen resilience and connectedness.
 - Providing in-person community wellness supports such as educational and skills training for young people to improve self-esteem and build emotional regulation skills.

Example Linkage to Care Activities

The following activities involve direct engagement of individuals and families to first understand their priorities and circumstances, then to provide tailored support and linkages to care.

Linkages to care are defined as bridges that connect individuals and families to the services that are most appropriate based on self-identified priorities.

Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Collaborating with a range of community stakeholders to identify resource networks for individuals and families seeking services to support economic stability, substance use treatment, medical care, education, and to address essential daily needs.
- Directly linking individuals and families to resources such as:
 - Peers with lived experience providing support and resource navigation to Latinx communities.
 - Harm reduction resources such as syringe service programs.
 - First responders and emergency medical providers.
 - Crisis services in response to overdose.
 - Substance use treatment providers.
 - Primary care providers.
 - Pre-natal care providers.
 - Housing assistance.
 - Transportation.
 - Childcare.
 - Food banks or other resources supporting daily living.

Monthly Reporting

Grantees will develop and submit brief monthly reports describing project activities. Reports will include efforts related to project planning and implementation, such as but not limited to:

- Descriptions of prevention media campaigns and estimated audience size.
- Descriptions of outreach, awareness, and educational activities, including numbers of activities, participants, and participant demographics.
- Educational or awareness campaign materials and participant feedback on their effectiveness.
- Descriptions of how resources are promoted and how support is offered to communities.
- Descriptions of how activities tie to intended outcomes.

Questions?

Please contact Jennifer Dieguez at Jennifer.dieguez@doh.wa.gov.

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