



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

November 26, 2019

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

RE: REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA) FOR PROJECT EMPOWERMENT 2020-2023

Funding for this RFA is established in California HSC Section 120780.5. Upon an appropriation in the annual Budget Act, California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS (CDPH, OA) shall award funding, on a competitive basis, to community based organizations (CBOs) or local health jurisdictions (LHJs) to provide comprehensive human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention and control activities for the most vulnerable and underserved individuals living with, or vulnerable to HIV infection. As indicated by HIV surveillance data, the populations most vulnerable to HIV are Black/African American (AA) and Latinx populations.

Project Empowerment recognizes the strength and resilience of Black/AA and Latinx communities. This project aims to build up and empower these communities that have been underserved by existing HIV prevention and health care systems, by leveraging resources intentionally focused on serving these communities. Project Empowerment supports the strategic planning and implementation of innovative and culturally responsive programs that reduce health inequities, HIV related stigma, medical mistrust, and barriers to HIV prevention, care and treatment services. Through trauma informed care approaches, eligible entities (EEs) will advance community health and wellness while understanding the current and historical trauma that adversely impacts Black/AA and Latinx health outcomes.

The goal of this funding is to improve viral suppression among Black/AA and Latinx people living with HIV, and to prevent HIV acquisition among Black/AA and Latinx people who are particularly vulnerable to HIV. The intended outcomes include increasing viral suppression, increasing linkage to and retention in HIV care, increasing knowledge of HIV status, and increasing linkage to and uptake of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). CDPH, OA will take in to account the EE's ability to effectively reach these populations through new and innovative strategies. OA defines "innovative" as the application of new ideas or promising practices that use the required approaches within this RFA to address the needs of Black/AA and/or Latinx individuals/communities as

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demonstrated by data. This also includes the advancement of existing programs or approaches that have been deemed successful in serving Black/AA and Latinx individuals/communities.

EEs may include individual CBOs and LHJs, as well as collaborations between CBOs and LHJs. EEs located in any county are eligible to receive contract funding. Not less than 50% of the total funds awarded in this RFA shall be provided to CBOs.

OA looks forward to receiving applications from all EEs to support the goals of Project Empowerment to provide comprehensive prevention and control activities for the most vulnerable and underserved individuals living with, or vulnerable to HIV infection, to improve health outcomes, reduce HIV-related health disparities, reduce new HIV infections, and achieve maximal results in addressing the HIV epidemic in California.

The [Project Empowerment RFA](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OA_RFA.aspx) can be accessed here:
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OA_RFA.aspx

Please note the following important dates:

- Project Empowerment RFA application [webinar](#) will be held on **December 3, 2019 from 10 A.M. PDT – 12 P.M. PDT.**
- Questions about the Project Empowerment RFA must be submitted in writing by email to ProjectEmpowerment@cdph.ca.gov by **December 6, 2019 by 5:00 P.M. PDT.**
- Questions and responses will be posted on this webpage by **December 11, 2019 by 5:00 P.M. PDT.**
- Mandatory electronic Letter of Intent (LOI) is due on **December 13, 2019 by 12:00 Noon PDT.** RFA Attachments will be sent to only those who submit LOI.
- Electronic application submission is due on **December 27, 2019 by 5:00 P.M. PDT.**
- Please see the RFA for LOI and application submission information.

If you have any questions about the information in this letter, please send an e-mail to ProjectEmpowerment@cdph.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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