

FY 2017-18 NYC Viral Hepatitis Budget Proposals

Through the New York City Council's Viral Hepatitis Initiative, the Council has demonstrated its tremendous commitment to respond to the hepatitis B and C epidemics that have hit NYC's communities. **The organizational signatories on this document support building on the existing success of the City's viral hepatitis programs with the following proposal to expand these programs in FY 2018.**

<u>NYC Hepatitis Initiatives</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>City Council Designations FY 2017</u>	<u>Estimated Cost With Expansion</u>
<p>Hep C Peer Program</p> <p>Supports all NYC IDUHA Syringe Exchange Programs to pay a stipend to a Peer to conduct outreach to people at high risk for Hep C, and navigation through testing, care and treatment. Harm Reduction Coalition provides training and technical assistance.</p>	<p>Expand the capacity of the 16 existing Hep C Peer programs based at Syringe Exchange Programs as well as the technical assistance and training services provided by Harm Reduction Coalition. Expansion will allow organizations to extend the hours Peer Navigators are available, engage more at-risk New Yorkers, and provide increased hep C prevention services, education, testing, and connections to care.</p>	\$216,000	\$330,830
<p>Check Hep C Patient Navigation Program</p> <p>Supports 12 health centers to hire one patient navigator to conduct linkage to care and clinical care coordination services to support successful Hep C treatment and cure.</p>	<p>Continue the funding for the 12 health centers.</p>	\$620,776	\$620,776
<p>Check Hep B Patient Navigation Program</p> <p>Supports 8 sites to hire one patient navigator to conduct linkage to care and clinical care coordination services to support</p>	<p>Expand the capacity of Check Hep B program to fund patient navigators at 1 additional health center in addition to the existing 8 sites. Increased funding to support the services provided by African Services Committee (one</p>	\$338,380	\$493,650

complete medical evaluation, cancer screening and treatment if recommended.	of the existing sites) and to allow all 9 Check Hep B programs to provide annual liver cancer screening.		
Hep C Clinical Mentoring Program Supports the Empire Liver Foundation to provide training to increase the hepatitis clinical provider capacity in NYC.	Continue existing Empire Liver Foundation clinical mentoring program at current funding levels. Expand the program to include 1 additional training program, the Hepatitis C Mentoring and Support Group provides education and supportive services for all individuals living with Hepatitis C and Co-infection HIV/hep C.	\$139,190	\$164,190
Project INSPIRE 8 patient navigators at Montefiore Medical Center who provide care coordination services in the Bronx.	These services were previously funded through CMS and DOHMH Project INSPIRE which has ended, but these services continue to be essential to address hepatitis C.		\$391,600
Public Health Solutions (PHS) Administration Supports administration of viral hepatitis programs in FY 2018 is 10% of all programs, excluding Bellevue Check Hep B and C Programs, which are administered directly by the City.	Continue existing services at allowable contracted level (10% of total value of all contracts excluding PHS).	\$131,435	\$200,105
Total		\$1,445,781	\$2,201,151

Each of these programs receives a 56% match from New York State, which is not represented in this column. With NYS matching funds, we anticipate the total available budget for these programs would be approximately \$3,433,795.56

GAPS IN NYC'S VIRAL HEPATITIS CARE CONTINUUM

Largely due to City Council and community advocacy, NYC has improved its viral hepatitis response over the past year, but there remain major gaps in the hepatitis C virus (HCV) and hepatitis B virus (HBV) treatment cascades:

- Out of the estimated **146,500 NYC** residents who are living with Hep C, ⁱ an estimated **40%** do not know their status, **53%** have confirmed HCV infection, **22%** received treatment, and only an estimated **14%** have been cured of hepatitis C. ⁱⁱ
- Out of the estimated **100,000 NYC** residents who are living with Hep B, an estimated **50%** do not know their status and NYC does not yet have a continuum of care for hepatitis B for those who are aware of their status. In 2015, **7,719 people** were newly reported with chronic hepatitis B, an increase (3.5%) from 2014.
- Hepatitis C related deaths surpass both Hep B and HIV. In 2015, there were **98 Hep B deaths** (rate of 1.1 per 100,000 people) and **633 Hep C deaths** (rate of 7.0 per 100,000 people). Over half of the deaths from both hepatitis B and C occurred in people younger than 65 years of age. ⁱⁱⁱ

New York City is well positioned to take advantage of the recent U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of a game-changing new generation of all-oral, easy-to-tolerate, 90% to 100% effective curative treatment for hepatitis C in as little as 8 weeks as well as preventative vaccines and effective treatment for hepatitis B. We are finally at a moment when we can address the alarming gaps in the hepatitis B and C care continuum. With the appropriate City response, the hepatitis B and C epidemic can be controlled and potentially eliminated. However, New York City must scale up and continue the hepatitis C programs, such as the NYC Hep C Peer Program and the Check Hep C Patient Navigation Program, that are already working to expand hep C testing, prevention, linkage to care, services, and curative treatment. We must also scale up and continue hepatitis B programs such as Check Hep B to expand hepatitis B screening, education, and linkage to ongoing care-and-treatment.

EXPANDING THE NYC HEP C PEER NAVIGATION PROGRAM

The goal of the City Council's Hep C Peer Program is to prevent new Hep C infections in both adults and youth, and it is the most cost-effective and high-impact NYC program to provide outreach, prevention, and linkage-to-testing and -care services for people at risk for or infected with hepatitis C. By training and paying a stipend to peers with lived experience and building on existing harm reduction programs, the Hep C Peer Program reaches people who inject drugs and people who engage in sex work populations that are generally at the greatest risk of acquiring hepatitis C and the least likely to be currently connected to care.

The fifteen NYC syringe exchange programs funded through the City Council initiative are members of the **Injection Drug User Health Alliance (IDUHA)**. IDUHA is a coalition of community-based syringe access providers that advocates for health services for people who inject drugs and their families in all five NYC boroughs. IDUHA provides an entry point for the **estimated 80,000 drug injectors** in NYC who experience a range of health issues, including HIV

and hepatitis B and C, but the populations that IDUHA serves frequently have poor access to the traditional healthcare system.

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) evaluation of the program outcomes from July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2016 that all of the 3,664 program enrollees received hepatitis C education; 2,078 participants were tested for hepatitis C and at least 472 people were referred to hepatitis C medical care.^{iv} Last year's program outcomes show that the City Council's Hep C Peer Program is having a strong impact in some of the communities hardest hit by hepatitis C, but the program capacity and geographical coverage must be expanded in order to address the dramatic gaps in the City's hepatitis C treatment cascade.

Expanding the capacity and geographical reach of IDUHA's NYC Hep C Peer Navigation Program will significantly increase hepatitis C education, testing and linkage to care across NYC's five boroughs. IDUHA specifically proposes extending hours to ensure that existing programs have the capacity to engage more at-risk New Yorkers and connect them to care.

Estimated cost of expanded program: \$330,830 (\$114,830 in additional funds)

CONTINUING NYC'S CHECK HEP C PROGRAM

The City Council's Check Hep C Patient Navigation Program provides linkage-to-care and clinical care coordination services at 12 health centers across NYC. Each health center has 1 patient navigator, who provides services to 75 patients per year, and from January 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 the program served 722 people with hepatitis C; 569 of these patients completed a full hepatitis C medical evaluation, and 271 people completed Hep C treatment and were cured.ⁱ

Continued cost of program: \$620,776

EXPANDING NYC'S CHECK HEP B PROGRAM

The City Council's Check Hep B Patient Navigation Program provides hepatitis B linkage-to-care and clinical care coordination services at 8 sites (including health centers as well as community based organizations) across NYC. The Check Hep B evaluation showed that the program served a diverse and medically underserved population (nearly all were foreign-born). From January 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 the program enrolled 462 patients with hepatitis B; 428 of these patients completed a full Hep B medical exam and 169 patients started continuous treatment to suppress hepatitis B viral load and were linked to ongoing medical care.^v The Check Hep B Program is making a huge impact in addressing the burden of Hep B in the communities but program capacity needs to be expanded to address remaining gaps in the hepatitis B treatment cascades.

One additional health center, Montefiore Medical Center, serving high numbers of hepatitis B-positive patients have requested a Check Hep B patient navigator (additional \$40,410). Addition of one more Check Hep B site will help NYC reach more community members living with hepatitis B across NYC.

Existing Check Hep B programs specifically proposes to support the cost of program services (specifically African Service Committee requesting additional \$56,359) and liver cancer screening to people with living with hepatitis B (additional \$58,500). Hepatitis B (CHB) is a chronic condition that needs to be carefully monitored for a lifetime and the risk of developing liver cancer and/ or complications from hepatitis B increases with age. Individual with hepatitis B is recommended to get an ultrasound screening every 6-12 months to prevent spontaneous development of liver cancer. Lifetime hepatitis B care management is vital yet costly. Expansion of the program's funding is essential to provide linkage-to-care and clinical care coordination services for people living with hepatitis B.

Estimated cost of expanded program: \$493,650 (\$155,270 additional funds)

EXPANDING NYC'S HEP C CLINICAL MENTORING PROGRAM

Currently, NYC's Hep C Clinical Mentoring Program funding supports the Empire Liver Foundation to provide trainings which increase the hepatitis clinical provider capacity in NYC. The addition of another training and mentoring program, the Hepatitis C Mentoring and Support Group (HCMMSG) will increase the capacity of providers to work with people who are living with Hep C. HCMMSG's work is designed to give patients the help to overcome barriers for care and support. They educate patients and both clinical and non-clinical providers on hepatitis C, addressing some of the challenges associated with having Hep C and after cure. They look at broader health solutions covering topics such as re-infection, transmission, harm reduction strategies, and non-medical issues. HCMMSG educates clients on ways to maintain good health. In addition, they include help with navigating insurance issues where needed and advocacy skills. The feedback from patients is that this program helps motivate clients to want to seek treatment and adhere to it. In some cases it helps to decrease the feelings of stigma, helping people to feel worthy. Empowering clients to be in charge of their own health. This program enables people to have better health outcomes.

Estimated cost of expanded program: \$164,190 (\$25,000 additional funds)

INCLUDING PROJECT INSPIRE IN INITIATIVE FUNDING

Project INSPIRE consists of 8 patient navigators at Montefiore Medical Center who provide care coordination services in the Bronx. These services were previously funded through CMS and DOHMH Project INSPIRE which has ended, but these services continue to be essential to address hepatitis C. Continuation of the program's funding is essential to provide linkage-to-care and clinical care coordination services for people living with hepatitis C. From September 01, 2014 through December 31, 2016, Montefiore enrolled 1653 in our hepatitis C program, of whom 52% are Latino and 34% are non-Latino Black. A total of 882 patients started treatment, 723 of these (82%) completed treatment, and 517 to date have been cured

Estimated cost of funding the program: \$391,600 in new funds

Endorsing organizations

1. ACRIA
2. ACT Up New York
3. African Services Committee
4. After Hours Project
5. AIDS Center of Queens County (ACQC)
6. Amida Care
7. Apicha Community Health Center
8. Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center
9. BOOM! Health
10. Bronx Lebanon
11. Brooklyn Chinese Family Health Center at NYU Langone
12. Brownsville Multiservice Center
13. Charles B. Wang Community Health Center
14. Community Health Action of Staten Island (CHASI)
15. Coalition On Positive health Empowerment (COPE)
16. Division of Gastroenterology & Liver Diseases at Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine
17. Empire Liver Foundation
18. Exponents
19. Family Services Network of New York
20. GMHC
21. Harlem United Community AIDS Center, Inc.
22. Harm Reduction Coalition
23. Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group
24. Hispanic Health Network
25. Housing Works
26. Injection Drug Users Health Alliance (IDUHA)
27. Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York Inc.
28. Latino Commission on AIDS
29. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center (The Center)
30. Lower East Side Harm Reduction Center, a program of Alliance for Positive Change
31. National Action Network
32. National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc. (NBLCA)
33. New Alternatives for LGBT Homeless Youth
34. New York Harm Reduction Educators (NYHRE)
35. Peer Network of New York (PNNY)
36. Positive Health Project
37. Praxis Housing Initiatives, Inc.
38. Project INSPIRE
39. St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction (SACHR)
40. Treatment Action Group
41. VOCAL-NY
42. Washington Heights CORNER Project
43. Wyckoff Heights Medical Center

To get in touch with a NYC Viral Hepatitis Initiative funded agency in your district, contact:

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Citations:

- i. *Check Hep C Patient Navigation Program: 2016 Final Report* (Rep.). (2016, December 23). Retrieved https://hepfree.nyc/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Check-Hep-C-2016-Final-Report-One-Pager_12-23-16.pdf?x41468
- ii. Winters, A. *Hepatitis C in New York City*. Presented at the 2017 New York State Hepatitis C Elimination Summit. February 7, 2017.
- iii. Hepatitis B and C Annual Report, 2015 (Rep.). (2016, October) Retrieved <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/cd/hepatitis-b-and-c-annual-report-2015.pdf>
- iv. *Check Hep C Peer Navigation Program: 2016 Final Report* (Rep.). (2016, December 23). Retrieved https://hepfree.nyc/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Hep-C-Peer-Program-2016-Final-Report-One-Pager_12-23-16.pdf?x41468
- v. *Check Hep B Patient Navigation Program: 2016 Final Report* (Rep.). (2016, December 23). Retrieved https://hepfree.nyc/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Check-Hep-B-2016-Final-Report-One-Pager_12-23-16.pdf?x41468