

Request for Proposals: Reduce Drug-Related Harms Among Communities of Color in Michigan

**Informational Webinar
January 26, 2021**



**Proposal submission deadline:
February 12, 2021**

Agenda

1 Background

2 Overview of RFP

- Program Framework
- Project Parameters
- Proposal Requirements & Selection Criteria
- Timeline & Contact

3 Questions

Please add questions to the Q & A box at any time. Note that all chat messaging, including 'private messages' will be seen on the recording transcript.

Background **Who We Are**

- **Vital Strategies** is funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies to offer comprehensive technical assistance and support for reducing overdose deaths in targeted states with high rates of overdose deaths.
- **Yet Once More, LLC** is a Detroit-based anti-racism consulting firm, collaborating with Vital Strategies to implement this program.

Background Objectives

- Support local community-based organizations (CBOs) and partnerships in **addressing harms caused by the ‘War on Drugs’** on Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) populations
- Support **community mobilization grounded in equity and inclusivity** of people who use drugs and are directly affected by the War on Drugs

Background **War on Drugs**

The **'War on Drugs'** is a phrase used to describe a government-led initiative that began 1971, when President Nixon declared drug use to be “public enemy number one.” The **'War on Drugs'** stated aim was to **stop illegal drug use, distribution and trade through dramatically increasing prison sentences for both drug dealers and users.** The movement is still evolving today.

“We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin. And then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities...

We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news.

Did we know we were lying about the drugs?

Of course we did.”

John Ehrlichman (2016)

(Former Domestic Policy Chief to President Nixon)

Background War on Drugs

- Amount spent annually in the U.S. on the war on drugs: **\$47+ billion**
- Number of arrests in 2018 in the U.S. for drug law violations: **1,654,282**
- Number of drug arrests that were for possession only: **1,429,299**
- Number of people arrested for a marijuana law violation in 2018: **663,367**
- Number of those charged with marijuana law violations who were arrested for possession only: **608,775**
- Percentage of people arrested in 2017 for drug law violations who are Black: **27%** (despite making up just 13.4% of the U.S. population)
- Number of people in the U.S. incarcerated in 2016: **2.3 million**, the highest incarceration rate in the world

***The war has become
institutionalized.
It is no longer a special program
or politicized project; it is simply
the way things are done.***

Michelle Alexander, “The New Jim Crow”

Background

- In 2018 overdose mortality rates among white residents decreased by 6.5 percent, while rates among black residents increased by 14.7 percent across the state
- In 2018, southeastern Michigan is home to the largest BIPOC communities, and more than 25% of the state's overdose deaths

Number of Drug Poisoning/Overdose Deaths - Year(s) 2018

State and/or County + Detroit ↕	Number of Deaths ▼
Wayne (Out County)	416
City of Detroit	359
Macomb	333
Genesee	221
Oakland	183
Ingham	93
Washtenaw	85
St. Clair	57
Monroe	48
Livingston	29

Request For Proposals

Reduce Drug-Related Harms Among Communities of Color in Michigan

- \$50,000 is available per applicant
- One-time funding—non-renewable
- 6-month project period: March 2021 – September 2021
- Up to 5 awards will be given
- Allowable for wide range of community-based activities

Supporting projects that will address the harms of the racialized War on Drugs & are grounded in racial equity and harm reduction philosophy

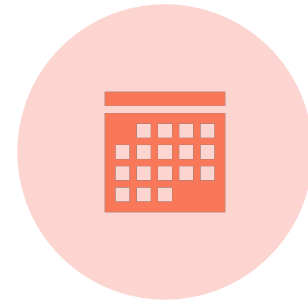
Timeline



APPLICATION DUE:
FEBRUARY 12, 2021



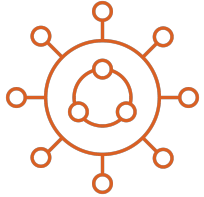
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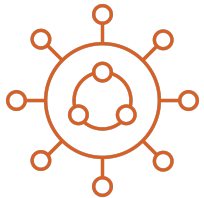
PROJECT START
DATE:
MARCH 1, 2021

Regarding COVID-19, we will monitor this changing landscape and make accommodations while supporting the progress of this work as best we can. Please feel free to share any concerns or questions at overdose@vitalstrategies.org

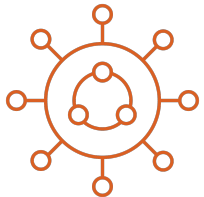
Program Framework



Harm Reduction



Health Equity



Racial Equity

Program Framework

Harm Reduction

Pragmatic public health approaches to:

- Minimize risk
- Take precautions
- Reduce negative consequences

Program Framework

Health Equity

“Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.”

- *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2017*

Program Framework

Racial Equity

Eliminating racial disparities by applying strategies targeted to close the gaps in services access, delivery, and quality.

Access a toolkit here:

<https://www.racialequityalliance.org/resources/racial-equity-toolkit-opportunity-operationalize-equity/>

What do we mean by a harm reduction approach to drug use?

- Minimize risk
- Take precautions
- Reduce negative consequences



Priority organizations for funding consideration

- 1 CBOs that are led by BIPOC *OR* collaborations between organizations in which at least one is led by a BIPOC
- 2 CBOs or partnerships that individually or together are working to advance racial equity in majority BIPOC communities
- 3 Supportive of a harm reduction approach to drug use
Committed to addressing the root causes of social/racial injustice at a community-level

Priority organizations for funding consideration

- 4 Engaged with the most under-resourced neighborhoods in Michigan in these counties: **Genesee, Ingham, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, Wayne**
- 5 CBOs **need not** have a work history of engagement in activities and issues related to drug use
- 6 Organizations **need not** have 501 (c)(3) status to qualify, but must demonstrate sound fiscal record keeping for previous two years.

Primary expectations of awardees

- Participation in four 2-hour virtual Racial Equity Harm Reduction Workgroups to be convened with awardees
- Participation of relevant project staff and/or members in two 1-hour virtual Progress Reviews
- Participation in technical assistance, as needed, to facilitate implementation of projects
- Execution of projects that work towards the advancement of Racial Equity in harm reduction and overdose prevention

Project Examples

Community Education and Trainings

Series of events to expand community understanding of racial inequities driven by War on Drugs

- Identify stakeholders and communities that are key targets
- Develop content, objectives and agenda for change, including speakers and materials (flyers, factsheets, briefs)
- Plan event most appropriate and accessible for target population – townhalls, webinar, teach-ins, etc
- Develop and execute outreach plan

Project Examples

Community Organizing and Base-Building

Enhancing and expanding an existing network of residents, workers, constituents, etc. to identify and address barriers to care and supports for people who use drugs

- Internal assessment and external community engagement to ensure inclusivity of people who use drugs in decision-making roles
- Formulate partnerships with harm reduction organizations and other groups that are being led and powered by people who use drugs and other lived experiences
- Engage in 'community consultations' to center and listen to the voices of PWUD and collaboratively develop agenda for change
- Develop and execute plan to disseminate and advance agenda for change

Project Examples

Assessment and Capacity Building

Capacity-building in coalition work for coalition partners to understand and address drug-related inequities and center people who use drugs

- Assessment of coalition/partner activities, gaps, strengths and identify opportunities to build enhance anti-racist, anti-stigma harm reduction actions, advocacy, and messaging
- Invest in leadership and skills development for people who use drugs and lived experiences to lead, advocate, provide peer support and other meaningful roles in advancing drug policy work
- Train peers in harm reduction methods, anti-racism frameworks, and other areas that enhance their capacity and ability to work with marginalized populations and BIPOC communities

Project Examples

Direct Services to Impacted Populations

Develop and expand racial equity oriented, community-targeted, harm-reduction services & Enhance understanding, training and support for peers, especially peers of color, and their role in direct services

- Identify experts, develop content, and conduct trainings
- Foster engagement for peer workers with each other and across organizations
- Develop supports for peer workers, including professional development, grief support, recovery and harm-reduction support

Proposal Requirements & Selection Criteria

I. Cover page

II. Project Narrative

- a. Agency background
- b. Agency capacity and experience
- c. Scope of work
- d. Workplan
- e. Evaluation
- f. Letters of support (optional)

III. Budget



Fidelity to and commitment to harm reduction framework and health and racial equity approach



Quality and clarity of the proposal



Reach and Impact



Sustainability and Continuity

Proposal Requirements & Selection Criteria

Scope of Work

- a. Need statement
- b. Proposed project activities
- c. Resources needed
- d. Population to be served
- e. Geographic reach
- f. Racial equity approach
- g. Sustainability and continuity plan



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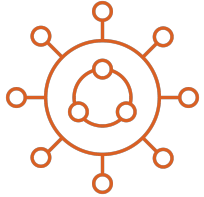
Racial Equity Approach

- Representation of Black, Latinx, and Indigenous communities in staffing and leadership
- Identify and address racial disparities
- Develop outreach and communication strategies to reach Black, Latinx, and Indigenous communities
- Develop culturally responsive services and activities
- Develop and/or implement a plan to meaningfully increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and access for Black, Latinx, and Indigenous people within the organization

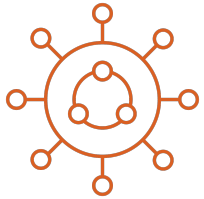
Budget Parameters

- **Must be directly related to project activities** (not supporting indirect cost or providing general operating support)
 - Staff support
 - Direct assistance to individuals (e.g. stipends, fees and incentives)
 - Hiring of a consultant to develop or review policies and protocols for improvements to better serve people who use drugs, and
 - Event space and other costs (e.g. trainings, community engagement, etc.)
 - Equipment & supplies (including naloxone & syringes)*
 - Marketing and promotion for community engagement and patient education
 - Other operations support directly related to project (e.g. travel, office supplies, technology, printing/copying, etc.)

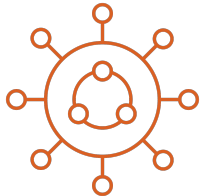
Program Framework



Harm Reduction



Health Equity



Racial Equity

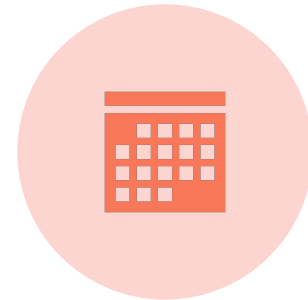
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Resources

Racial Equity

- **Racial Equity Alliance** - https://www.racialequityalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/GARE-Racial_Equity_Toolkit.pdf
- **Center for Social Inclusion** - <https://www.centerforsocialinclusion.org/our-work/what-is-racial-equity/>
- **Racial Equity Tools** *Community Organizing Strategies* - <https://www.racialequitytools.org/act/strategies/community-organizing>

Harm Reduction and Drug Policy

- **National Harm Reduction Coalition** - <https://harmreduction.org/our-resources/>
- **Drug Policy Alliance** - <https://www.drugpolicy.org/>

Thank you!

Please submit any additional questions to
overdose@vitalstrategies.org

or visit

<https://www.vitalstrategies.org/resources/request-for-proposals-to-reduce-drug-related-harms-among-communities-of-color-in-michigan/>