REQUEST FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES

SUMMARY

Vital Strategies is the lead technical and implementation partner for a Bloomberg Philanthropies-supported initiative to tackle the overdose epidemic in the United States. Its Overdose Prevention Program supports partners and stakeholders in establishing effective policy and program models to reduce overdose deaths, working primarily in four states: Pennsylvania, Michigan, Connecticut, and New Jersey.

For this RFS, Vital Strategies is seeking to contract with two part-time (PT) consultants to conduct community mobilization for support of harm reduction strategies in Pennsylvania.

SERVICES REQUESTED

Vital Strategies will fund experienced PA-based harm reductionists to garner support across PA for Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) and other harm reduction approaches. This project will aim to increase the adoption of harm reduction strategies across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with an intersectional racial justice lens, through activities focused on increasing public awareness; building grassroots capacity for community mobilization and activation; teaching harm reduction principles and best practices to organizations interested in building harm reduction into their current or future programs; cultivating existing partnerships and stakeholders; and engaging new stakeholders, collaborations and partnerships. This project will have a key focus on organizing and mobilizing support for the state authorization and statewide expansion of SSPs. At the close of the project, it is expected that public awareness will have increased, existing advocates will have enhanced knowledge and skills, and new stakeholders and partnerships will have been identified and forged. The consultants will be expected to think in a strategic way about advancing harm reduction access and possess the ability to adapt and revise their work strategies based on emerging opportunities and challenges.

Collaboratively with Vital Strategies and the Lead PA Community Mobilizer, the consultant will develop a strategic plan with target goals and objectives related to PA-wide efforts for engagement, desktop research and materials development, media and communications outputs, base building and coordination of advocates and stakeholder partnerships, policy and systems assessments and analyses, and public education and presentations.

QUALIFICATIONS:

For this work, Vital Strategies seeks to fund individuals with knowledge and experience in harm reduction practice, centering racial and economic equity, community organizing and mobilization, training development and facilitation, infographic and other product development, and coalition building. Preference will be given to individuals most impacted by racialized drug policy.
OTHER INFORMATION:

This work will be funded through September 30, 2021.

Estimated total work hours will be approximately 400 hours over 20 weeks, $100.00 to $115.00 per hour.

This work will require both community-based and remote services. The Service Provider assumes all COVID-19 related risks in completing community-based activities contained in the scope of work.

To apply
To be considered for this consultancy, please submit the following items to overdose@vitalstrategies.org with subject line RE PA-CONSULTANT

1. Letter of interest detailing relevant work experience
2. Resume
3. Two professional references with contact information