



Funding Opportunity

Mpox Vaccine Uptake Mini-Grants for non-Ryan White Funded HIV/AIDS Organizations

Application Deadline Monday, January 9, 2023

Contact: 443-786-2377 | jpatterson@communitysolutions.com

Background

The AIDS Funding Collaborative (AFC) strengthens the community's response to HIV/AIDS as a public/private partnership providing coordination, leadership, advocacy, and funding in Greater Cleveland. The AFC has set aside funds in order to increase mpox vaccination rates among people living with HIV who are most at risk for severe disease, especially Black gay/bisexual men, Black [same-gender-loving](#) men, and other Black men who reside in neighborhoods with low vaccine uptake, and who are most impacted by mpox and HIV.

This initiative will support the HIV community's capacity to promote mpox vaccine awareness, confidence, and access amongst people living with HIV. The AFC will utilize these funds to provide up to a total of \$14,000 in mini-grant awards for Cuyahoga County HIV/AIDS prevention and care organizations that are not currently funded through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program. The grant awards are intended to complement the work of public health officials and clinical providers, and expand local capacity to address the mpox outbreak through focused education, outreach, vaccine registration, individual follow-up, and vaccination events.

mpox and HIV

So far there have been [more than 150 cases of mpox in Cuyahoga County](#), including over 1/3 with HIV co-infection and roughly 1/5 who are diagnosed with mpox along with a new diagnosis of HIV or another STI. Men who have sex with men (MSM) of all sexual orientations are currently at higher risk for contracting mpox because of the social and sexual networks in which the virus has been spreading the fastest. There have been a number of hospitalizations for severe mpox in people who were diagnosed with HIV at one point, but were not in care. Greater Cleveland has also experienced two deaths from mpox among Black men.

In addition, [a recent CDC Report](#) details the occurrence of severe manifestations of mpox in the United States, particularly in people living with HIV. The findings indicate significant disparities in mpox case severity for Black men and people experiencing homelessness. In Cuyahoga County, highest numbers of mpox cases have been seen in zip codes that align with other health inequities.

[HIV and mpox are examples of syndemic outbreaks](#) that interact with each other and therefore require specific action for both diseases in order to mitigate the impact of both.

The AFC is seeking proposals from organizations who intend to promote mpox vaccine uptake at the local level in sexual & social networks and neighborhoods where mpox rates are high and vaccination rates remain lower than those of the surrounding area.

Who May Apply

Applicant agencies must:

- Be nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations or public agencies, or have a fiscal sponsor;
- Provide HIV services or engage in work that impacts Black men or others affected by both HIV/AIDS and mpox, particularly those who are not in care;
- Serve Cuyahoga County residents, as required by the funding parameters of the AFC's current funding partners.
- Not be funded by the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program currently;
- Provide demographics of clients served with mpox vaccine uptake programming;
- Provide brief final narrative and fiscal reports;
- Commit to completing their initiative within a 6-month timeframe.

Funded agencies will receive mini-grant awards of up to \$5,000, to promote mpox vaccine uptake via focused education, outreach, vaccine registration, individual follow-up, and/or vaccination events. The AFC can provide access to vaccination clinical provider contacts at local public health departments and health centers, as needed.

Application Procedure:

The application can be found at www.aidsfundingcollaborative.org and should be submitted either via the google form or via the word document application emailed to jpatterson@communitysolutions.com, subject line "Mpox Mini-Grant Application" **no later than Monday, January 9, 2023, by 11:59pm.**

Completed application forms must include short responses to the following:

1. Briefly describe your organization. For those seeking support with a fiscal sponsor, please describe your relationship with the sponsoring organization;
2. Give an overview of the organization's HIV services/programming, including relevant populations reached;
3. Brief description of your organization's mpox vaccine uptake initiative plan, using activities drop-down menu;
4. Outlined line-item budget, using template;
5. If relevant, who is your vaccination clinical provider partner?

Review Process:

The AFC will review all applications submitted by the deadline that meet the application and eligibility requirements. Final approval will be made by January 13, 2023. Applicants may be asked to provide additional information.

Funding recommendations will be based on the following criteria:

- Maximizing the use of the grant funds (e.g., number of people served);
- The scope and reach of the agency's HIV programming/services;
- Documented ability to reach Black men at risk for mpox and/or who are living with HIV but are not in care; and
- The number and quality of applications received.

If the grant is approved, the applicant will receive an award letter describing specifics of the grant award and the grant period, and a Terms of Grant Agreement which must be signed by the agency's executive director and chair or president of the Board of Directors. Once the AFC receives the signed Terms of Grant Agreement, a grant check will be issued.

Reporting:

As is the case with all AFC grantees, recipients of these grants are required to submit a brief report that describes the outcomes of the funded activity and fully documents expenditure of the grant funds. Details concerning the reporting requirements will be included in the Terms of Grant Agreement.

Contact:

Reach out to Julie Patterson, AFC director regarding the mini-grant application or with questions related to this funding opportunity: jpatterson@communitysolutions.com