

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT REVENUE (TSR) FUNDING REQUEST

Name of entity requesting TSR funds: New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH), Public Health Division (PHD), HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Section.

Name(s) of each program for which TSR funds will be used:

Hepatitis and Harm Reduction Program.

Description of each program, including its purpose:

The Hepatitis and Harm Reduction Program reduces the transmission of infectious diseases including HIV and hepatitis C virus (HCV), and reduces other harms related to injection of substances such as overdose deaths from opiate use. The programs offer an array of core public health services including syringe exchange, opiate overdose prevention and education, substance use reduction through acu-detox, hepatitis C testing, hepatitis A and B vaccination, and hepatitis disease epidemiology and surveillance. Services are delivered by PHD staff at Public Health Offices (PHO) and via outreach to ensure access for underserved communities. Additionally, all activities are delivered by trained and certified staff of funded partner organizations. Tobacco Settlement Revenue (TSR) funds have been used to support these contractual services for more than a decade.

Have you requested TSR funds prior to this request? Yes

Have you received TSR funds prior to this request? Yes

If yes, in what fiscal years? The HIV, STD and Hepatitis Section has received TSR funds for well over a decade. Due to budget reductions more than five years ago, the scope of supported activities was reduced to work that directly prevents HIV and HCV infections, so the allocation no longer includes care for persons living with HIV. The total funding amount was flat at \$293,000 for contractual services annually through state fiscal year (SFY 2020), with a small reduction to \$283,800 last year. The program seeks to restore funding to the previous allocation of \$293,000.

What will you use the requested funds for? Please include goals and objectives.

TSR dollars will contribute partial support to achieve the following Hepatitis and Harm Reduction Program objectives by supporting contractual services:

- 1) Provide syringe exchange services to ensure that persons who use drugs have safe and sterile equipment. The program exchanges approximately 11-13 million syringes per year.
- 2) Ensure a collection rate of at least 80% for syringe services to ensure used syringes are disposed

of safely.

3) Provide opiate overdose prevention and education, including distribution of the reversal drug Naloxone, to at least 7,500 persons per year.

Is this a change from previous years' use? No

If yes, please describe the change and reason(s): The program continues to grow rapidly due to rising need and demand, with a four-fold increase over the past decade. It has also been deemed as a “super priority” by NMDOH given the high rate of opiate overdoses in the state.

Amount requested (Total amount, and amount for each program): \$293,000

Hepatitis Program: \$43,400

Harm Reduction Program: \$249,600

What other sources of funding are applied to this purpose?

The Hepatitis and Harm Reduction Program receives an annual award from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for hepatitis prevention and surveillance activities of \$315,000 per year. In addition, the program receives \$1,329,800 per year in state general fund (SGF) dollars for harm reduction activities and \$659,000 for hepatitis activities.

Name, title, telephone, email, and mailing address of contact person:

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