



**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-DUVAL COUNTY
ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC COMMUNITY FUNDING
ANNOUNCEMENT
PS24-0047**

FY 25-26

Request for Applications

October 2025
Duval County Health Department
515 W. 6th St
Jacksonville, FL 32206

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1.0 Introduction

Duval County and the State of Florida are at a critical point in determining the most effective strategies to address HIV among racial/ethnic minorities and underserved populations. The Department of Health in Duval County (DOH-Duval), in partnership with local community-based organizations (CBOs), seeks applications for funding to implement strategies based on the Duval County EHE Plan.

1.1 Tentative RFA Timeline

Event	Deadline
1. Announcement released to recipients Available via email, HIVCARENOW Website Ending the HIV Epidemic Duval HIVCareNow	<i>October 31, 2025</i>
2. Applicant Questions- Opportunity for applicants to ask questions regarding the RFA via HIVCARENOW@flhealth.gov	<i>November 7, 2025</i>
3. Application deadline	<i>November 14, 2025 (by 5:00 P.M. EDT)</i>
4. Recipient selection notification	<i>December 5, 2025</i>
5. Submit Health Exemption	<i>December 12, 2025 (30 business days approx. for approval)</i>
6. Complete Scope of Work	<i>December 12, 2025</i>
7. Anticipated start date	<i>February 2, 2026</i>
8. Project end date	<i>May 31, 2026</i>

1.2 Award Opportunity

The funding amount for this opportunity is up to \$15,000 per selected recipient. A total of 5 awards are available. Award opportunity is subject to availability of funds.

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1.3 Submission of Request Responses

Responses to this Request must be submitted electronically by the deadline specified in Section 1.1: Tentative RFA Timeline. It is the responsibility of the recipient to ensure timely delivery. The Department reserves the right to reject any responses submitted after 5:00 P.M. EDT on the specified due date. The email submission must include the subject line “Ending the HIV Epidemic Funding Response” and be sent to HIVCareNow@Flhealth.gov. All required documentation should be attached to the email.

1.4 Funding Purpose

The Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) initiative is a national effort aimed at reducing new HIV transmissions to fewer than 3,000 cases annually by 2030. As part of this effort, seven Florida counties, were selected for Phase 1: Broward, Duval, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, and Pinellas. In collaboration with local communities, the State of Florida will implement targeted strategies based on four essential pillars designed to end the HIV epidemic in the U.S.:

- **Diagnose:** Identify all individuals with HIV as early as possible.
- **Treat:** Provide rapid and effective treatment for people with HIV to achieve sustained viral suppression.
- **Prevent:** Use proven interventions, such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and syringe services programs (SSPs), to prevent new HIV transmissions.
- **Respond:** Address potential HIV outbreaks swiftly by ensuring prevention and treatment services reach those in need.

2.0 Overview

The focus of this Request For Application is to engage all people affected by HIV regardless of risk through innovative community outreach, interventions, enhanced access to HIV care, and linkage to PrEP services, with the goal of ending the HIV epidemic in the region, as aligned with the Duval County EHE Plan.

For people living with HIV in Duval County, activities will center on improving access to HIV care, antiretroviral (ARV) treatment, retention in care, and viral suppression.

2.1 Required Recipient Qualifications

Eligible community organizations must meet the following qualifications:

- 1.0 Experience with Affected Communities:** At least 4 years of demonstrated work within communities in Duval County that are most impacted by HIV to include:

HIV Service Experience: Demonstrated experience in providing prioritized HIV testing and HIV Linkage to Care services, including innovative approaches such as non-traditional service hours, non-traditional testing locations, and/or at-home testing kits, as well as peer programs and other HIV-related services or programs.

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- 2.0 HIV Screening Capacity*:** Ability to conduct HIV screenings using prioritized or routine testing methods, which may include offering services during non-traditional hours, at non-traditional locations, or providing at-home testing kits and routine HIV/STI screening in healthcare settings within Duval County.
- 3.0 Linkage and Treatment Expertise:** Proven ability to link individuals with HIV or those at high risk of contracting HIV to care and treatment within 72 hours. This includes using targeted messaging and interventions for awareness, education, viral load suppression, and PrEP services, along with facilitating access to PrEP treatment, provider visits, PrEP labs, and Telehealth consultations to prevent new transmissions in the key populations identified in Section A.
- 4.0 Training Compliance:** In accordance with Florida Statutes 381.004, individuals conducting HIV pre- and post-test counseling and testing must complete HIV 500/501 client-centered testing, partner counseling, and referral service training.
- 5.0 HIV Test Site Registration*:** Must be a registered HIV Test Site with the Florida Department of Health, following state guidelines, in good standing.
- 6.0 Non-Duplication of Services:** Proposed services must not duplicate or replace any services currently funded by the Department of Health.
- 7.0 Continuity of Operations:** Demonstrated ability to maintain continuity of operations and perform essential functions in the event of damages, losses, or critical incidents.
- 8.0 State Vendor Registration:** Must be eligible to do business with the State of Florida and registered as a vendor in My Florida Market Place (MFMP) Ariba on Demand (AOD).
- 9.0 Service Location:** All proposed services and activities must take place within Duval County.

***Exception:** Community Based Organizations that are not currently registered HIV Test Sites may apply but must work with a registered HIV Test Site within Duval County to accomplish project testing goals, as applicable.

3.0 Recipient Selection

The selection process may result in the identification of one or more recipients in Duval County to provide the services outlined in this notice. These services will be contracted through a purchase order from the Department, incorporating the terms of the Department's Standard Contract. Recipient selection will be based on a thorough review and evaluation of submitted applications. The evaluation will identify recipients who are well-equipped to execute the goals of the EHE initiative and deliver services to priority populations in Duval County.

3.1 Recipient Applications

Applications will be reviewed following the closing date/time of the due date for submissions. Late applications will not be reviewed. Applications may be rejected after submission if any of the following apply:

- 1. Application is received after the deadline as set in the schedule.

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2. Applicant has not submitted all required forms and attachments as outlined in the RFA and instructions.
3. Applicant provides false or misleading information.

3.2 Requirements for Recipient's Response

Applicants should select at least 2 strategies to implement with detailed information as outlined within the 3.2a Project Requirements section.

Applicants must address each of the following sections in their response. The submission should be concise and must not exceed 5 pages, including the budget table. Failure to provide all requested information may result in disqualification. The Department reserves the right to reject any response that fails to meet these requirements, omits requested information, or deviates from the application process in any way. All proposed services and activities must take place in Duval County.

The provided application attachments must be used when responding to the RFA.

3.2a Project Requirements

A complete application with the following sections/items are to be completed and returned by the deadline as listed in the schedule:

1. Project Description:

This section should provide a high-level overview of the proposed project and include the following:

- **Project Strategies:** Indicate the selected 2 project strategy activities from the following EHE Pillar options to be implemented during the funding period:
- **Pillar 1:** Diagnose all people with HIV as early as possible.
- **Pillar 2:** Treat people with HIV rapidly and effectively to reach sustained viral suppression
- **Pillar 3:** Prevent new transmissions of HIV by using proven interventions, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and syringe services programs (SSPs).
- **Pillar 4:** Respond quickly to potential HIV outbreaks to get needed prevention and treatment services to people who need them.

1. **Activity 1a:** Implement HIV testing in health care settings, including routine opt-out HIV Screening.

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Examples include: Promote and conduct routine opt-out HIV screening in health care settings located in high HIV prevalence communities, Promote routine perinatal HIV testing of all pregnant persons and diagnostic HIV testing for HIV-exposed infants per CDC and HHS recommendation.

2. **Activity 1b:** Implement HIV testing in non-health care community settings, including HIV self-testing.

Examples include: Conduct HIV testing in community settings utilizing various methods such as outreach, mobile testing units, venue-based, community-based, jail, detention, and other community correctional settings, and large-scale testing events, Promote HIV testing program services through social marketing and media efforts and other communication efforts to increase awareness of HIV and reduce stigma.

3. **Activity 2a:** Support people with diagnosed HIV infection to receive rapid and effective treatment (and increase viral suppression to 95%)

Examples include: Develop programs to support and promote rapid linkage (within 72 hours), Develop and implement a plan to ensure early ART initiation for all people with newly diagnosed HIV infection, Support community health worker/lay health advisor networks as part of the HIV treatment team, that can provide outreach to people not in care to facilitate re-entry into care. Community health worker programs may be supported by social media and health communication campaigns that emphasize the importance of HIV treatment adherence.

4. **Activity 3a:** Support and promote awareness and access to PrEP and PEP services.

Examples include: Increase awareness, availability, access, and use of PrEP, Increase non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) awareness and access, where appropriate, including activities with clinicians, non-clinical CBOs, and people at risk for HIV acquisition, Identify resources and refer populations with ongoing risk of HIV acquisition to PEP, and PrEP services.

5. **Activity 3b:** Condom distribution

Examples include: Conduct condom distribution efforts, including the promotion of and provision of condoms, within communities, venues, and other settings to prevent HIV transmission.

6. **Activity 3d:** Support and promote social marketing campaigns and other communication efforts to increase awareness of HIV, reduce stigma, and promote testing, prevention and treatment.

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Examples include: Support and promote social marketing, educational and informational campaigns, and social media messages focused on HIV prevention, HIV awareness, or other related topics focused on relevant audiences (e.g., providers, focused populations, or communities impacted by HIV)

7. **Activity 6a:** Conduct strategic community engagement

Examples include: Develop new strategic partnerships and ensure that people from local communities experiencing disproportionate HIV diagnosis and rapid HIV transmission and other lived/living experience are brought to the table for meaningful discourse and subsequent programmatic action, Provide opportunities for bidirectional engagement with community members especially those with lived HIV experience.

- **Target Zip Codes:** Specify the zip codes based on the HIV epidemiological data.
 - **Project Activities:** Describe the specific activities and objectives involved in the project, for each strategy. Activities would define how the project would be implemented and expanded. Objectives would state the goals/targets that you are trying to reach for each strategy.
 - **Key Staff:** Describe your staffing for the project, including any plans to hire additional staff for the project. Describe your plan to maintain project continuity in the event of staff turnover.
2. **Success Criteria & Measurable Outcomes:**
For each project strategy, clearly define how project activities and objectives will be measured, who will be measuring the activities/objectives, frequency, tracking methods, etc. and how success will be measured.
3. **Organization Background:**
Provide information about your organization, including history, mission, vision, and goals. Provide a description of your experience in conducting activities similar to the proposed project. Include specific examples of previous work that demonstrates the organization's capacity to carry out the project activities.
4. **Collaboration:**
Offer an overview of any communities or organizational partners, such as other clinicians, community-based organizations, that you currently engage with to support the project.
5. **Timeline:**
Present a timeline for completing the project activities, ensuring that all activities are concluded by May 31, 2026, subject to the availability of funds.
6. **Budget:**
Submit a Proposed Project Budget Narrative and a Budget Table Summary (See Attachment I).
7. **Organization Information:**
Include the following:

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- Legal name of the organization
- Funding amount requested
- Name and contact information of the person submitting the application
- Applicant's mailing address
- Completed W-9 form
- Authorized signature, name, and title of the person submitting the application

3.3 Recipient Evaluation

Applications will be reviewed after the submission deadline and scored with assigned numerical values for each section. Applications will be scored based on quality and completeness of the responses to each proposed project strategy. Applications will be scored by an objective review committee, chosen for their expertise in the HIV EHE field.

Final approval of awardees will be made by Duval County Health Officer.