

Program #40061A - Harm Reduction 2/17/2017

Department: Health Department **Program Contact:** Kim Toevs
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs: 40011, 40061B
Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

The Harm Reduction program implements syringe exchange as its core activity. Syringe exchange is proven to keep infection rates low among people who inject drugs, their partners, and their infants. Multnomah County and its partner Outside In started two of the first syringe exchange programs in the nation and collect almost 4 million syringes annually through 50,000 visits. The program integrates strategies that increase readiness of clients to engage in addictions treatment and reduce overdose deaths, emergency room visits and hospitalizations, and hepatitis C and B infection.

Program Summary

The need for the Harm Reduction program has increased dramatically over the past 5 years due to increases in heroin and methamphetamine use and homelessness. Currently, 67% of clients are homeless or temporarily/unstably housed. To successfully engage this high risk, high need, mobile population in services, the program integrates supportive services and referrals into its geographically diverse, nonjudgmental approach.

Syringe exchange and disposal comprises the bulk of programmatic activities. Syringe exchange sites, which provide clean needles in exchange for used needles, are located in geographically diverse areas of the county. Each year, they serve over 6,000 unique clients. Additionally, about 20% of clients report exchanging on behalf of other individuals in their household, apartment, building, or drug using network. This informal user-driven distribution dramatically expands the reach of the program by increasing the supply of sterile syringes in injection drug communities and is called 'secondary syringe exchange.' Services are proving successful, as 67% of clients said they had never shared needles in the last three months. The program also addresses inappropriate syringe disposal and public safety through distributing personal sharps containers to drug users to keep families, households, neighbors, and police safe; providing technical assistance, outreach, and clean-up support to businesses, neighborhood associations, and city agencies to reduce inappropriately disposed syringes in public places; and maintaining two outdoor disposal units on the east and west side of the downtown waterfront in collaboration with City of Portland.

The program integrates a number of strategies that increase readiness of clients to engage in addictions treatment and reduce overdose deaths, emergency room visits and hospitalizations, and hepatitis C and B infection. These include the East Portland Harm Reduction Center, which incorporates HIV/HCV testing, wound infection/abscess clinical care, and addictions treatment care coordination with syringe exchange activities; condom and other safe sex supply distribution to individuals engaging in sex work; and providing technical expertise for policy drafting and analysis to pass life saving policies, inform administrative rule writing and statewide implementation. Overdose prevention/Naloxone distribution has been part of this program (see Program Offer 40061B).

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY16 Actual	FY17 Purchased	FY17 Estimate	FY18 Offer
Output	Number of encounters	51,263	50,000	52,000	50,000
Outcome	Number of syringes received	3,362,947	na/-	4,000,000	4,000,000
Output	Number of new clients	2,479	na/-	2,300	2,300
Output	Number of sharps containers distributed	11,283	na/-	13,000	13,000

Performance Measures Descriptions

- 1) Visits to harm reduction services by clients.
- 2) New: Demonstrates volume of syringes per year for which program provides safe disposal.
- 3) New: Demonstrates effective ongoing outreach and engagement of county residents at need.
- 4) New: Personal sized sharps containers distributed to clients through syringe exchange services.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Federal Program Requirements

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2017	2017	2018	2018
Personnel	\$406,439	\$291,141	\$322,131	\$41,528
Contractual Services	\$228,230	\$244,230	\$227,230	\$22,540
Materials & Supplies	\$140,544	\$66,066	\$317,124	\$22,520
Internal Services	\$179,834	\$38,245	\$222,735	\$5,050
Total GF/non-GF	\$955,047	\$639,682	\$1,089,220	\$91,638
Program Total:	\$1,594,729		\$1,180,858	
Program FTE	4.10	2.59	2.91	0.25

Program Revenues				
Indirect for Dept. Admin	\$29,901	\$0	\$3,933	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$527,861	\$0	\$91,638
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$116,750	\$0	\$0
Service Charges	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$29,901	\$664,611	\$3,933	\$91,638

Explanation of Revenues

HIV Prevention Block Grant: \$75,098
Healthy Streets Grant: \$16,540

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was:

The Harm Reduction program was included in FY17 40011A (STD/HIV/Hep C Community Prevention Program). Program Offer 40061B is being submitted as a one-time-only request to support overdose prevention/naloxone distribution, which would otherwise not be provided due to lack of funding.