OBJECTIVES: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces the opportunity to apply for funding for a new 3-year initiative entitled Strengthening Systems of Care for People Living with HIV and Opioid Use Disorder. This initiative will fund an estimated one (1) to four (4) entities, referred to as System Coordination Providers (SCPs), who will assist states in leveraging resources at federal, state, and local levels for people living with HIV (PLWH) and opioid use disorder (OUD). Specifically, the goal of this initiative is to strengthen system-level coordination and networks of care between the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) recipients and other federal, state, and local entities funded to respond to the opioid epidemic to ensure PLWH and OUD have access to behavioral health (BH) care, treatment, and recovery services. This will be accomplished by identifying new and expanded resources to treat persons with OUD, identifying new and existing partners in the system of care, and building and strengthening networks of care between the RWHAP and entities receiving OUD-focused resources. This initiative will strengthen and build upon existing systems of care and treatment that will maximize cross-sector collaboration across federal, state, and local partners in order to achieve improvements in the system-level coordination and leveraging of available resources for improving the health outcomes of PLWH and OUD. While the intent of this initiative is to strengthen systems of care to address OUD, it is likely that increasing collaboration and integration among RWHAP recipients and entities receiving OUD funding may also enhance the system of care for other comorbid conditions for PLWH, such as hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and other BH disorders as well. The SCP(s) awarded under this initiative will be responsible for implementing a system-wide assessment of OUD care and treatment, if none is available, and identifying the availability of resources at the federal, state, and local levels to combat the national opioid epidemic. The SCP(s) will assist RWHAP providers in leveraging the use of these resources for the care and treatment of OUD in PLWH, and should capitalize on what has already been done, if relevant. The SCP(s) will ultimately enhance the capacity of these organizations to capitalize on resources directed at addressing the opioid epidemic to improve BH treatments among PLWH and OUD.

FUNDING INFORMATION: HRSA expects approximately $3.5M to be available annually to fund an estimated one (1) to four (4) cooperative agreement recipients. The number of recipients will be contingent upon ensuring sufficient coverage of up to 15 states. You may apply for a ceiling amount up to $3.50M total cost (includes both direct and indirect, facilities and administrative costs) per year. Funding request levels should be commensurate with the number of states, anticipated reach, and the scope and complexity of system level coordination proposed for PLWH and OUD.

INTERNAL SELECTION PROCESS: BU, BUMC, and BMC may submit applications to this program. Interested applicants should email the following materials combined into a single pdf file to Diana Lehman at dlehman@bu.edu by Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019:

- Letter of recommendation from the appropriate Department Chair or a senior researcher;
- A brief (one-page) statement by the candidate describing his or her significant scientific work and immediate research plans;
- Up-to-date CV.

An internal review committee drawn from medical campus faculty will review internal proposals and select the final candidates for each institution.

**DEADLINES:** Internal Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019 | Sponsor Deadline: Tuesday, April 16, 2019.

*In requesting to be considered for this limited submission funding opportunity, you are making a commitment, if selected, to submit your proposal to the sponsor in a timely manner and to Sponsored Programs in accordance with the Proposal Submission Policy.*

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