

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 Programs

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 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. Service are delivered by PHD staff at Public Health Offices (PHO) and via outreach work to ensure access for underserved communities. In addition, all activities are also 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 reductions more than five years ago, the scope of supported activities was reduced to work that directly prevents HIV and HCV infections (while previously part of the allocation supported care for persons living with HIV disease). The total funding amount has been flat at \$293,000 for contractual services annually since state fiscal year (SFY) 2011.

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.

1) Provide syringe exchange services to ensure that persons who use drugs have safe and sterile equipment. Exchange approximately 8 million syringes per year.

2) Ensure a collection rate of at least 95% for syringe services, to ensure used syringes are disposed of safely and pose no hazard to the public.

3) Provide opiate overdose prevention and education, including distribution of the reversal drug Naloxone, to at least 2,500 persons per year.

4) Provide over 4,000 tests for hepatitis B and C per year, to ensure individuals are aware of their status and can be linked to medical care and treatment as necessary.

Is this a change from previous years' use? Yes

If yes, please describe the change and reason(s): The program continues to grow rapidly due to rising need and demand, now exchanging more than twice the number of syringes as just 5 years ago and triple the volume of overdose prevention. Addressing substance misuse is a priority for NMDOH given the high rate of opiate overdoses in the state.

Given that the HIV, STD and Hepatitis Section has seen significant cuts of more than 10%, or \$233,500 in SFY 2017, in state general fund dollars for HIV and HCV prevention, the section respectfully requests an increase in TSR dollars. This will prevent further reductions in contractual services that will impact the program's ability to meet the stated objectives. A request of \$150,000 would mean a total allocation of \$443,000. This will allow part of the reduction to be offset, so the program can continue to grow to meet the needs of New Mexicans at risk for infectious disease.

Amount requested (Total amount, and amount for each program): \$443,000

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 C prevention and testing work. During summer 2016, the program submitted a competitive application that increased the award to New Mexico by \$25,000. In addition, the program receives \$913,800 per year in state general fund (SGF) dollars for harm reduction activities and \$715,700 for hepatitis activities.

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

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