May 14, 2014

Dear Grantee:

We would like to make you aware of recent activities that may have an impact on HIV prevention services provided by health departments across the nation. Today, CDC and U.S. Public Health Service released new clinical guidelines encouraging health care providers to consider prescribing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for patients at substantial risk for HIV.

PrEP provides daily oral antiretroviral drugs to uninfected individuals prior to HIV exposure and has been shown to reduce HIV acquisition among men who have sex with men, heterosexual men and women and people who inject drugs. The new guidelines underscore the importance of counseling that covers around adherence and HIV risk reduction and recommends regular monitoring of HIV infection status, side effects and risk behaviors.

PrEP is a powerful new HIV prevention tool, and can be combined with condoms and other prevention methods to provide even greater protection than when used alone. PrEP has the potential to alter the course of the United States if targeted to the right populations and used as directed.

As an HIV prevention partner, you play a critical role in expanding uptake of PrEP and addressing practical implementation issues. Providing effective prevention options for people at high risk for acquiring HIV is a key priority for CDC and a critical component of your HIV prevention efforts as supported through CDC’s flagship HIV Prevention by Health Departments program.

In your role on the front lines of HIV prevention there are some key actions you and your organization can take to help achieve the full promise of PrEP in the United States:

- Integrate PrEP education and linkage into existing programs
- For those in clinical settings, you can prescribe PrEP to patients with indications for use.
- Support awareness and education of PrEP among clinicians and potential users by sharing the new guidelines and related information on your agency’s website and other communication vehicles distributed to populations at high risk for HIV.

Also attached to this letter is guidance for health departments funded through CDC’s Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP) on which PrEP-related services can be supported with DHAP HIV prevention funding. [See guidance below]

For more information on the guidelines and other supporting documents, visit [www.cdc.gov/hiv/prevention/research/prep/](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/prevention/research/prep/). Should you need additional information, specific to capacity building assistance, or to request training and technical assistance for the health department, please contact your HIV prevention project officer in CDC’s Division of HIV/AIDS.
Prevention, Prevention Program Branch. CDC will present Public Health Grand Rounds on PrEP for Prevention of HIV on Tuesday, May 20 at 1:00 PM EDT.

Your role in maximizing the impact of this powerful new intervention is crucial. We thank you for playing your part and thank you also for all you do every day to deliver high-impact HIV prevention in communities across the United States.

Sincerely,

/Kenneth G. Castro/                  /Janet C. Cleveland/
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National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention
CDC PrEP Program Guidance for
HIV Prevention Health Department Grantees

Guiding Principles for using DHAP funding for PrEP-related activities:

- Participation in PrEP-related activities is optional under PS12-1201.
- PrEP-related activities to support prevention services for MSM and heterosexually-active men and women must be implemented as part of a comprehensive HIV prevention program that includes, as appropriate, linkage and referral to prevention and treatment services for sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and viral hepatitis, substance abuse and mental health, and other prevention support services.
- To minimize duplication of effort, DHAP health department grantees should coordinate and collaborate with other agencies, organizations, and providers involved in PrEP-related activities, STD, viral hepatitis, and substance abuse prevention and treatment, and HIV prevention activities.
- Funds for PrEP-related activities should ensure that referral and linkage to existing HIV prevention and treatment services are maintained.
- PrEP-related activities are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated or referenced in the grantee’s current cooperative agreement or grants.

Funds may be used for, but are not limited to, the following:

- Planning for how to most effectively incorporate PrEP into prevention education and services, including evaluating what collaborations will be needed.
- Educational materials about how to use PrEP in conjunction with other HIV prevention and care services, as well as STD, viral hepatitis, mental health and substance abuse treatment.
- Development and delivery of the HIV risk-reduction counseling and behavioral interventions that must be provided with PrEP.
- Communication activities related to disseminating information about PrEP.
- Evaluation activities for PrEP-related activities.
- Personnel (e.g., program staff) conducting the above PrEP-related activities.

Funds may not be used for:

- PrEP medications (antiretrovirals).
- Laboratory testing related to PrEP (other than HIV tests or hepatitis screening).
- Personnel costs for the provision of PrEP medication and recommended clinical care associated with PrEP.

Applicable cooperative agreements:

Funds provided under PS12-1201 (Comprehensive HIV Prevention Programs for Health Departments) may be used to support PrEP-related activities. Please refer to that funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for guidance on submission of programmatic and budget requirements. Funds provided under CDC DHAP FOAs for community-based organizations may
not be used for implementing PrEP-related activities. However, grantees funded under those announcements are encouraged to incorporate messages regarding PrEP into the counseling they provide as part of HIV counseling and testing and to provide appropriate referrals. These grantees may also collaborate with state or local health departments to implement PrEP-related activities in conjunction with state, local, or other federally funded programs.

**Process for Programs to use Current Cooperative Agreement Funding for PrEP-related activities:**

- Contact your HIV prevention project officer to discuss your program plans before submitting plans to CDC or revising budgets.
- Consider activities to support PrEP for those adult MSM and heterosexually-active men and women who are at very high risk of acquiring HIV infection.
- Work in partnership with CDC to determine the appropriate process measures to capture PrEP-related activities.
- Contact your HIV prevention project officer to discuss specific capacity building assistance needs or to request training and technical assistance.
- CDC will implement a streamlined process for consideration of PrEP-related activities.