



Hepatitis C Outreach Pilot Program

STATE OF UTAH
Division of Population Health
September 30, 2022

To: Health and Human Services Committee
From: Cindy Burnett, Program Manager, DREAM Program
Subject: Statutorily Required Report - Hepatitis C Outreach Pilot Program Outcomes (UCA 26-7-11(5))

Purpose

The purpose of the Hepatitis C Outreach Pilot Program was to distribute funding for organizations that have an established relationship with people at risk for hepatitis C to provide testing, education, and linkage to care for those who test positive for hepatitis C. Funding allowed contracted organizations to provide: i) specimen collection for hepatitis C testing; ii) clinical assessments; iii) consultation regarding blood-borne diseases; and iv) case management services for support during hepatitis C treatment.

This funding was used to enhance the capacity of community organizations to conduct hepatitis C (HCV) education, outreach, testing, and linkage to care activities in their local communities, with an emphasis on vulnerable populations, rural communities, and supporting activities at the local level to advance the priority areas outlined below:

- 1) Increase access to HCV testing, linkage to care, and treatment in high-impact settings
- 2) Conduct outreach activities to increase HCV education and prevention in high-impact settings
- 3) Increase access to syringe exchange, SUD treatment, and hepatitis A and B vaccination in high-impact settings

Executive Summary

High-impact settings included but were not limited to syringe service providers (SSPs), homeless outreach organizations, substance use treatment centers, correctional facilities, emergency departments, hospitals, and sexually transmitted disease clinics, and other community settings serving persons with a high prevalence of hepatitis C.

The Utah Department of Health Viral Hepatitis Program (VHP) solicited proposals from organizations who were working on hepatitis C education, outreach, testing, and linkage to care activities and distributed funding to support these activities. Required performance measure reporting for this bill is included below.

Final Report of Outcomes

Performance Measures

Number of hepatitis C screening tests performed by contractors: The FY2021 target for hepatitis C screening tests performed was 180 (15 per month). The project commenced on September 1, 2021 and ended on June 30, 2022. During the project period, contractors performed 1,316 hepatitis C screening tests, far surpassing the original target for the project period. Of the 1,316 HCV screening tests conducted during the project period, 358 (27%) were positive for hepatitis C. All individuals who tested positive for hepatitis C were referred to care/treatment by contracted organizations. Contractors were required to report these data monthly and we tracked, analyzed, and reported annual data to the legislature as required.

Number of contracts established to provide services: The Utah Department of Health Viral Hepatitis Program (VHP) solicited proposals from organizations who were working on hepatitis C education, outreach, testing, and linkage to care activities and executed contracts to distribute funding to seven (7) organizations throughout Utah:

Organization	Funding Amount
One Voice Recovery	\$26,933.00
Utah Hepatitis Coalition	\$5,005.00
Odyssey House Martindale Integrated Clinic	\$88,000.00
Utah Harm Reduction Coalition	\$42,500.00
Soap2Hope	\$2,505.00
Hope on T.T.a.P.P	\$45,054.00
Northern Utah Coalition	\$5,003.00

Project activities began on September 1, 2021 and ended on June 30, 2022. As a result of this state funding, and supplemental funding from a CDC grant, we were able to fund more agencies than originally anticipated. The increased number of funded organizations resulted in project outcomes that were above the expected target for this project. The funded agencies were diligent in conducting HCV-related activities and far exceeded our original expectations for this pilot program.