



# Maryland Harm Reduction Housing Landscape and Needs Assessment

**Pre-Application Webinar**

June 8, 2021

# Agenda

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- Introductions
- Procurement process information  
*(Robert Bruce, PHPA Chief Operations Officer)*
- Center for Harm Reduction Services background  
*(Erin Russell, Center Chief )*
- Housing background and Harm Reduction Housing Initiative key information  
*(Erin Russell, Center Chief)*
- How to apply  
*(Dana Heilman, Division Chief, Program Management)*

# Introductions

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- Robert Bruce, Procurement Officer
  - Chief Operations Officer, PHPA
- Erin Russell, Grant Monitor
  - Center Chief, Center for Harm Reduction Services
- Participating organizations should enter the following in the chat box:
  - Name
  - Company name
  - Email address
  - Telephone number

# Procurement Process Information

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- Section 1.6 Questions
  - How to submit questions
- Section 2.1 Applicant Mandatory Requirements
- Section 3 Scope of Work
- Section 4 Application format and submission
  - Volume I—Project Narrative
  - Volume II—Budget Justification/Narrative
  - Email preferred
- Section 5 Evaluation and Selection process

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# Center for Harm Reduction Services Background

# MISSION AND VISION

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## MISSION

The mission of the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration is to protect, promote and improve the health and well-being of all Marylanders and their families through provision of public health leadership and through community-based public health efforts in partnership with local health departments, providers, community based organizations, and public and private sector agencies, giving special attention to at-risk and vulnerable populations.

## VISION

The Prevention and Health Promotion Administration envisions a future in which all Marylanders and their families enjoy optimal health and well-being.

# Center for Harm Reduction Services (CHRS)

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- Created in 2019 to centralize harm reduction activities from across the Maryland Department of Health
- Housed within Infectious Disease Prevention and Health Services Bureau (within PHPA)
- Oversees the Overdose Response Program, Syringe Services Program, ACCESS grants and resources programs, and various workforce development, training, and technical assistance activities

# STRATEGIC GOAL AND VISION

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## STRATEGIC GOAL

The Center's strategic goal is to reduce substance-related morbidity and mortality by optimizing services for people who use drugs.

## VISION

CHRS envisions a Maryland where:

- Health care and social service systems meet the needs of people who use drugs in a comprehensive, community-based manner;
- People who use drugs have equitable access to high-quality care; and
- Services provided to people who use drugs are free from stigma and discrimination

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# Grant Background and Key Information

# Grant Summary

| Request for Proposals | Maryland Harm Reduction Housing Landscape and Needs Assessment  |
|-----------------------|---|
| Solicitation number   | PHPA 1598 BPM024470   |
| Issuing office        | Maryland Department of Health<br>Center for Harm Reduction Services   |
| Procurement officer   | Robert Bruce<br>(410) 767-0783<br><a href="mailto:Robert.bruce@maryland.gov">Robert.bruce@maryland.gov</a>  |
| Grant monitor         | <a href="mailto:erin.russell@maryland.gov">erin.russell@maryland.gov</a>  |
| How to submit         | Preferred by email: <a href="mailto:phpa.procurement@maryland.gov">phpa.procurement@maryland.gov</a><br>Subject: Robert Bruce PHPA 1598 BPM024470 |
| Closing date and time | July 1, 2021, 2:00 PM   |
| Anticipated duration  | September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022   |

# Contract Type

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- The Agreement resulting from this solicitation shall be a **COST CONTRACT**
- Grantees will invoice MDH Center for Harm Reduction Services for allowable costs incurred in performance of the contract

# Section 2.1 Applicant Mandatory Requirements

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- The Applicant shall be a Social organization as defined per Section 7-402 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland or a local, state government agency, public college or state university.
- All social organization applicants must submit their (or their fiscal sponsor's) proof of 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status

# Applicant Eligibility

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- Current receipt of an award from the Center for Harm Reduction Services does not preclude application to this grant opportunity

# Housing First Background (3.1.3)

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## What Housing First Looks Like:

- Evidence-based model that works to keep people housed
- Focus on accessing housing as quickly as possible
- No time limits on the housing
- Lease in the client's name
- Service delivery follows housing placement
- Services are time-limited and scaled to need
- Services are voluntary

# Housing and social determinants of health among people who use drugs

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- Stable housing and health outcomes are inextricably linked. When a person loses housing, health outcomes suffer.
- Housing First provides an evidence-based model that works to keep people housed; unfortunately, the stigma and policy barriers hinder its expansion.
- Addressing housing as a social determinant of health is critical to improving health outcomes and achieving health equity specifically for people who use drugs.

# Purpose of this grant award:

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*The priority of this grant award is to support the alignment of the Center for Harm Reduction Services activities with the Housing First initiative and increase equitable housing opportunities for people who use drugs.*

# Maryland Harm Reduction Housing Assessment (MHRHA) Activities (3.2.2)

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## 1. Conduct a landscape assessment of available housing options for people who use drugs in Maryland

- Describe the scope of available housing options in Maryland for people who use drugs (housing type, location, time available, etc.)
- Highlight gaps in housing, housing referral services, or housing first programs for people who use drugs in Maryland by region
- Identify federal, state, and local funding options for housing assistance for people who use drugs

# MHRHA Activities

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## 2. Conduct a needs assessment for housing among people engaged in harm reduction services in Maryland

- Collect data from multiple sources including Ryan White CAREWare and the Center for Harm
- Reduction Services Grantee Reporting Form
- Conduct 15-20 interviews or 5 focus groups with people who use drugs and are participant's
- Center-funded programs to learn current housing satisfactions; desired housing characteristics and locations; and actual/perceived barriers to housing and housing assistance

# MHRHA Activities

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## 3. Make 3-5 recommendations to improve housing access for people who use drugs in Maryland

- Informed by the landscape and needs assessment, identify 3-5 actions the Maryland Department of Health Center for Harm Reduction Services can take to increase access to housing first
- Propose a framework for changes to be made that improve investment in housing, reduces areas of duplication, and determines program or system-level improvements to housing based on national trends and best practices
- Include recommendations for training and technical assistance for housing providers

# Staff Requirements (3.2.3)

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- The Applicant shall have at least three years of experience working in the harm reduction field, at least one of which was spent developing knowledge of housing first models.
- Applicant must have sufficient capacity to lead this project
- Applicant must include project coordinator or director who serves as the point of contact throughout the project
- Applicant may subcontract to acquire qualitative or quantitative research capacity; if so, a letter of support from subcontractor and/or description of procurement process will strengthen the application

# Center for Harm Reduction Services overall strategic priorities (3.1.4)

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Harm reduction:

- An approach to service provision and a drug-policy reform movement that seeks to reduce the harms associated with drug use and drug policies
- Some key tenets:
  - People are not defined by their drug use
  - Quality of life improvement takes priority as an outcome over abstinence
  - People define their own goals, including regarding their drug use behaviors
  - Voices of people who use drugs must be centered in programs and policies that affect them

# **Center for Harm Reduction Services overall strategic priorities (3.1.4)**

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- A. Meet people where they are
  - 1. Prioritization of highly impacted populations
  - 2. Client-centered service delivery and low barrier/low threshold services
  - 3. Geographically-specific strategies
- B. Provide comprehensive services
  - 1. Drug user health framework
  - 2. Responsiveness to emerging needs
  - 3. Address social determinants of health
- C. Provide culturally competent and peer-run services

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# How to apply

# eMaryland Marketplace Advantage (Section 1.5)

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- You must register on eMaryland Marketplace (eMMA) in order to apply
- Registration is free
- Register as a new vendor [here](#)
- All solicitation information will be posted on eMMA

# Overall proposal outline

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## Volume I: Project Narrative (aka Technical Proposal)— *\*do not include cost information*

- ***Transmittal letter***  
(required information listed in 4.3.1.1 page 10)
- ***Project narrative/scope of work***
  1. Work Plan  
(described in 3.2.1 on page 13 [Template](#))
  2. Project Description  
(described in 4.3.1.4., pg 14)
  3. Mandatory Requirements Documentation
    - 501(c)(3) documentation, if applicable
    - CV of staff participating in the proposal

## Volume II: Budget Justification/Narrative (4.4) (pg 18)

- ***Exhibit B—Budget Form***
- ***Exhibit C—Budget Narrative***

# Volume I: Project Narrative (4.3.1.1)

## Transmittal Letter

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*The following should be included in the given order:*

- Applicant;
- Solicitation Title and Solicitation Number that the Proposal is in response to (PHPA 1598 BPM024470)
- Signature, typed name, and title of an individual authorized to commit the Applicant to its Proposal
- Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) of the Applicant, or if a single individual, that individual's Social Security Number (SSN)
- Applicant's eMMA number (see slide 25)
- Applicant's MBE certification number (if applicable);
- Applicant's SBR number (if applicable) – please contact eMMA at 410-767-1492 if you don't know your number.

# Volume II: Budget Narrative (4.4)

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Complete and submit the following:

*Exhibit B—Budget Form*

*Exhibit C—Budget Narrative*

# How to submit

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- Via email to [phpa.procurement@maryland.gov](mailto:phpa.procurement@maryland.gov) by July 1, 2021 at 2:00 PM
- Submit separately:
  - Project narrative (aka Technical Proposal)
    - Subject line:  
*Robert Bruce PHPA 1598 BPM024470 Technical Proposal*
  - Budget narrative
    - Subject line:  
*Robert Bruce PHPA 1598 BPM024470 Budget Narrative*

# Evaluation of the Applications

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- Applications will be reviewed and scored by an evaluation committee to determine which Applications are “most advantageous to the State,” considering price and evaluation factors

# Evaluation of the Applications

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Evaluation criteria in descending order of importance (pg 15)

1. Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of a harm reduction framework?
2. Does the applicant demonstrate academic and professional qualifications to meet the project's data collection and analysis needs?
3. Does the applicant demonstrate experience conducting similar projects in landscape assessment, harm reduction, and/or housing first?
4. Does the applicant demonstrate capacity to deliver the proposed programs including existing staff, hiring plan for new staff, and unique attributes of the organization that will support the grant activities? Confirm the applicant included CV's for relevant staff.

# Evaluation of the Applications

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Evaluation criteria in descending order of importance (pg 15) continued:

5. Does the applicant adequately describe other organizational needs to complete the project, including internal capacity, partnerships, and subcontracts?
6. Does the applicant propose to deliver at least 1 and up to 3 required grant activities in their entirety?
7. Does the work plan include appropriate deliverables throughout grant period?
8. Does the applicant include a timeline for achieving deliverables in the narrative or work plan?

# Evaluation of the Applications

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- See 3.1 Background and Purpose on pages 7-10 for background information related to the evaluation criteria

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# Questions?

# *Thank you!*

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[Center for Harm Reduction Services](#)