Syndemic Approaches: A National Overview

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Intro to NASTAD
Mission

NASTAD’s mission is to advance the health and dignity of people living with and impacted by HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, and intersecting epidemics by strengthening governmental public health and leveraging community partnerships.

Vision

NASTAD's vision is a world committed to ending HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, and intersecting epidemics.
NASTAD Serves 66 Jurisdictions

50 U.S. States
- District of Columbia
- Puerto Rico
- U.S. Virgin Islands

7 Local Jurisdictions
- Baltimore
- Chicago
- Los Angeles County
- Houston
- New York City
- Philadelphia
- San Francisco

U.S. Pacific Island Jurisdictions
- American Samoa
- Guam
- Marshall Islands
- Federal States of Micronesia
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Palau
VALUE STATEMENTS

We believe every person has equal value and dignity.

We believe access to quality health care is a basic human right.

We have an obligation to dismantle systems that perpetuate social and racial injustice.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**EQUITY**
We advance the rights and dignity of all people by dismantling oppressive systems and centering those most impacted by the syndemic.

**HARM REDUCTION**
We ensure people are free to make their own choices and we empower them to live safe, healthy lives.

**PERSONAL GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT**
We invest in opportunities for entry into and advancement within NASTAD and the public health workforce.

**COMMUNITY**
We continually engage with public health and community leaders to learn, connect, empower, and ultimately improve lives.

**EVIDENCE-INFORMED INNOVATION**
We use data-driven and community-informed strategies to provide technical assistance, capacity building, and advocacy.

**ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY**
We hold ourselves accountable to people living with and impacted by HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, and intersecting epidemics; and we provide comprehensive, timely, and accurate information to our staff, members, and external partners.
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Strengthen public health systems for HIV and hepatitis prevention, surveillance, and care.

2. Advance health and racial equity, and stigma elimination, focusing on disparately impacted communities.

3. Strengthen organizational excellence within NASTAD and its member jurisdictions.

4. Implement integrated approaches in HIV, hepatitis, STIs, harm reduction, and the social determinants of health.
Defining Syndemic
Syndemic Definitions | Original & Disease-Specific

- **Original (2003)**: Synergistically interacting epidemics
- **Lancet Commission (2019)**: A syndemic is when two or more diseases that co-occur, interact with each other, and have common societal drivers.
- **CDC/DHP (2022)**: Syndemics are epidemics—of diseases or health conditions, such as viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections (STI), substance use, and behavioral health issues—that interact with each other and by that interaction increase their adverse effects on the health of communities that face systematic, structural, and other inequities. In addition, SDOH (racism, homophobia, poverty) interact with syndemic conditions/diseases to elevate them to syndemic-level.
Histories of disease have long suffered from narrow approaches that consider epidemic and endemic illnesses in isolation.

Defining Syndemic Approaches

[A] syndemic approach examines why certain diseases cluster (i.e., multiple diseases affecting individuals and groups); the pathways through which they interact biologically in individuals and within populations, and thereby multiply their overall disease burden, and the ways in which social environments, especially conditions of social inequality and injustice, contribute to disease clustering and interaction as well as to vulnerability.

Merrill Singer, PhD, University of Connecticut (2017)
NASTAD’s SA Portfolio
NASTAD’s syndemic approaches center an equity-driven response to the epidemics of HIV, viral hepatitis, STIs and the infectious disease-related harms of drug use.

NASTAD’s working statement on syndemic approaches (2023).
National Snapshot of Syndemic Approaches

- Staffing
- Planning
- Testing/clinical care
- Braided funding*
- Contracting/sub-contracting
- Outreach/education/awareness
- Infrastructure/Systems-level change
 Syndemic Planning | Federal

[Images of STI, Viral Hepatitis, and National HIV/AIDS Strategy]

[Logo of NASTAD]
Syndemic Planning | Jurisdictional
RFA Syndemic Approach to Infectious Disease Prevention & Linkage Services

Important Information

- Application due date: no later than 5:00 pm, June 5, 2023
- Contract timeframe: Initial contract beginning January 1, 2024
- Submit applications and questions to: RFASyndemic@doh.wa.gov
- Upcoming application and information webinar April 12, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PST
- If you have questions about this application, you can ask them until April 24, 2023, at 5:00 pm. (Please see the RFA schedule on the cover page; note that the question and answer period has been extended from the original ending date of April 18, 2023, to allow more time for interested parties to view the recordings of the pre-release webinars.)
- You must submit questions by email to the RFA Coordinator: RFASyndemic@doh.wa.gov.

Summary

Washington State Department of Health Office of Infectious Disease is seeking applications from organizations interested in providing disease prevention and linkage services centering HIV, STI, viral hepatitis, and drug user health to individuals and communities in Washington state.

Eligible Program Activities

How to Apply

Application Materials - Syndemic
Infrastructure/Systems-level Change

**CDPH Syndemic ID Bureau – Current State**

- Community Health Services
- Public Health Services
- STI Clinical Services
- TB
- Strategy, Research, and Development
- Finance and Administration

Total FTE: ~140
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thank you!