

Syndemic Approaches: A National Overview

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Chicago Department of Health
Syndemic Infectious Disease Bureau
Provider Conference
May 2, 2023



Financial Disclosure Statement

Disclosure: Presenter has no financial interest to disclose. This continuing education activity is managed by The St. Louis STI/HIV Prevention Training Center and accredited by Missouri State Medical Association (MSMA) in cooperation with the Chicago Department of Public Health.

Intro to NASTAD

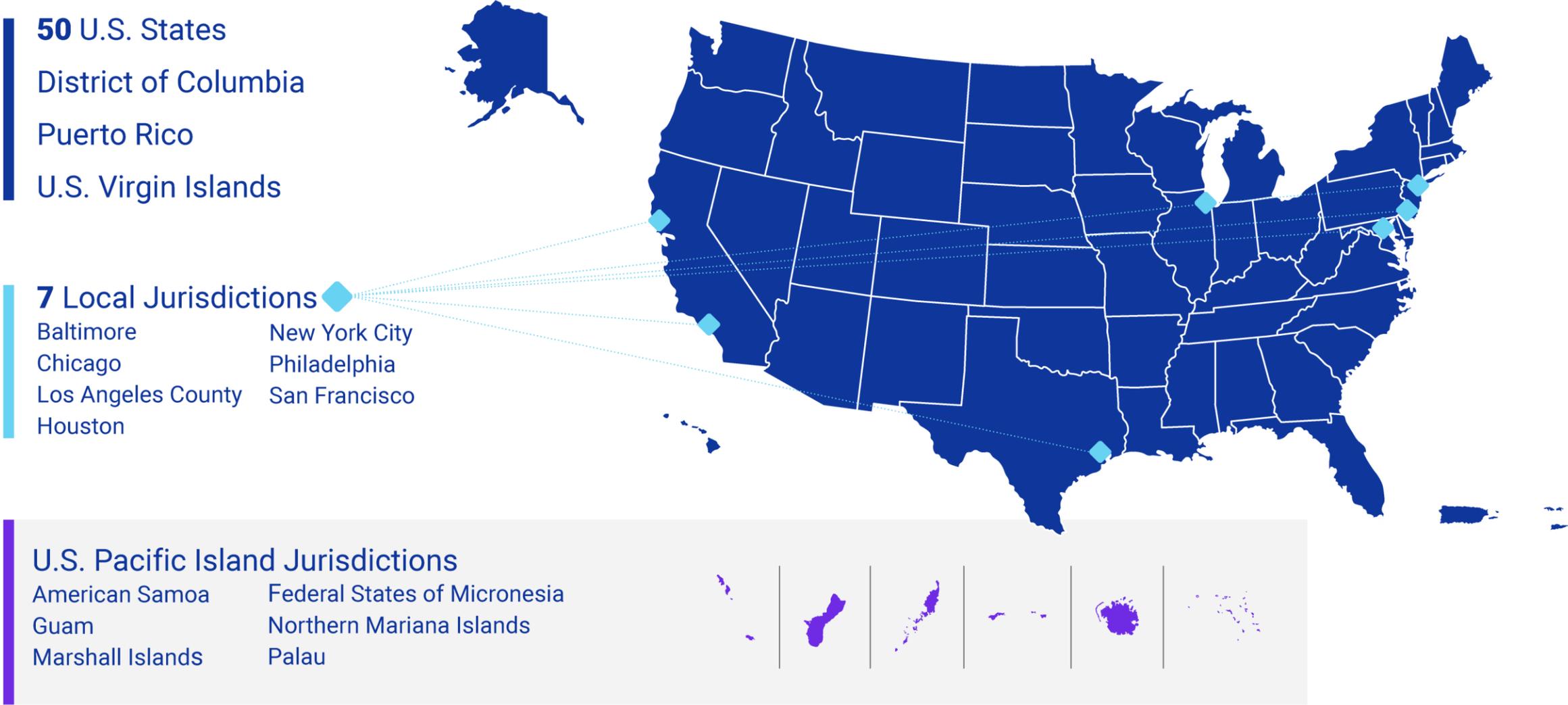
Mission

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



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

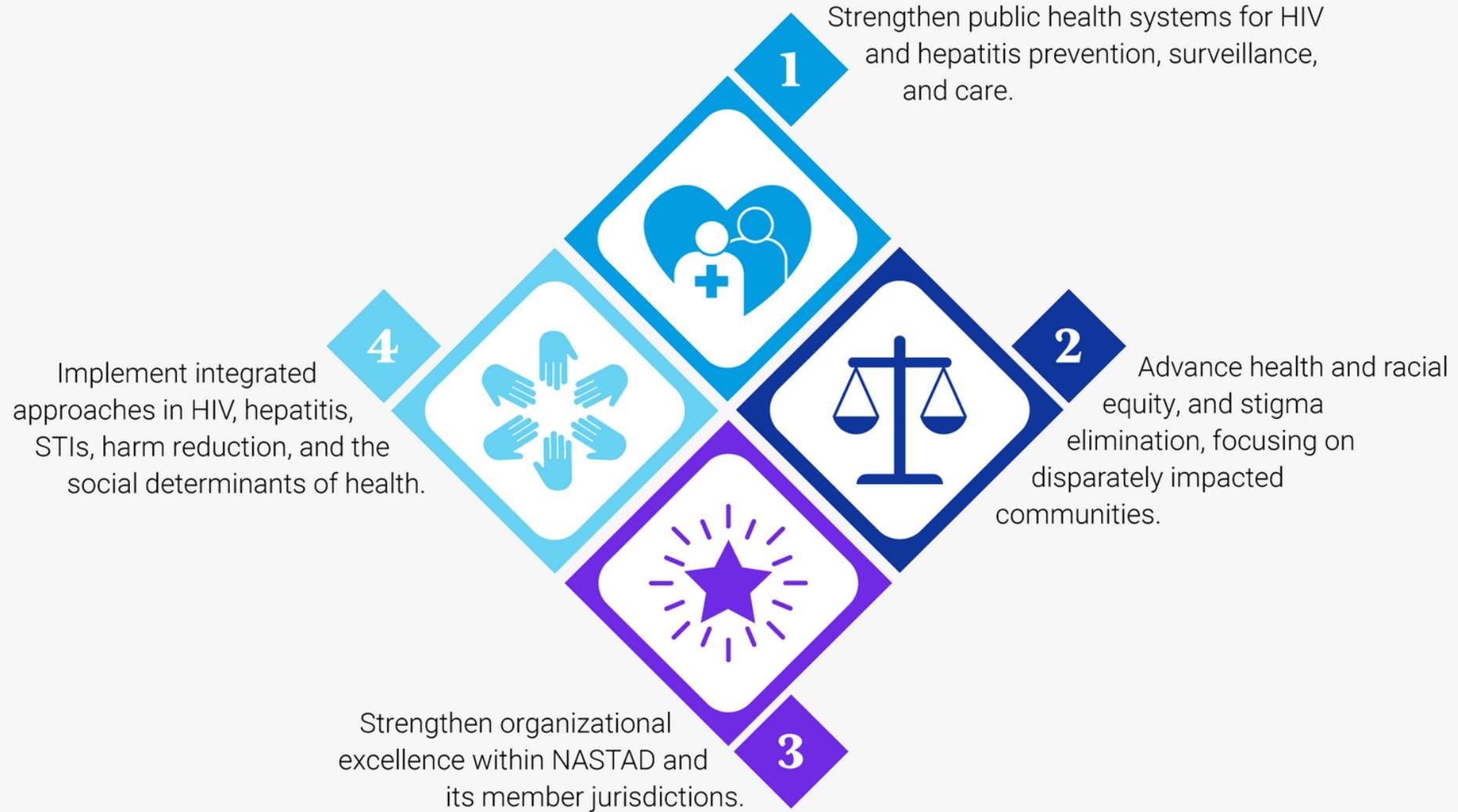
We use data-driven and community-informed strategies to provide technical assistance, capacity building, and advocacy.



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



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.

Mendenhall E, Newfield T, Tsai AC. Syndemic theory, methods, and data. Soc Sci Med. 2022 Feb;295:114656.

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

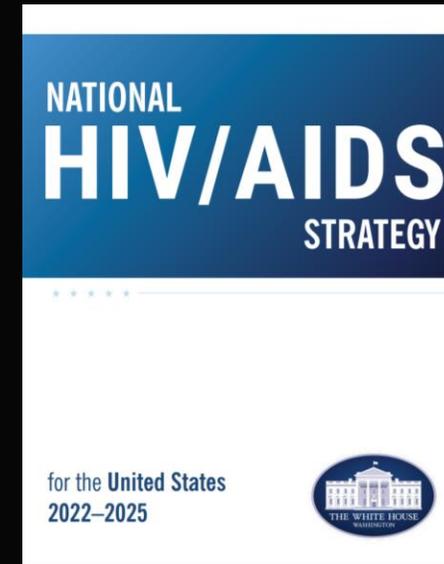
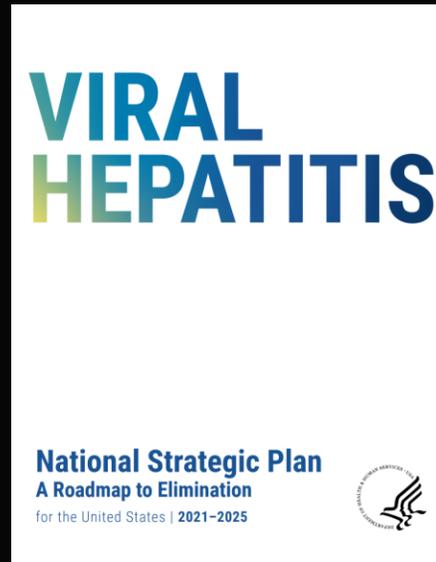
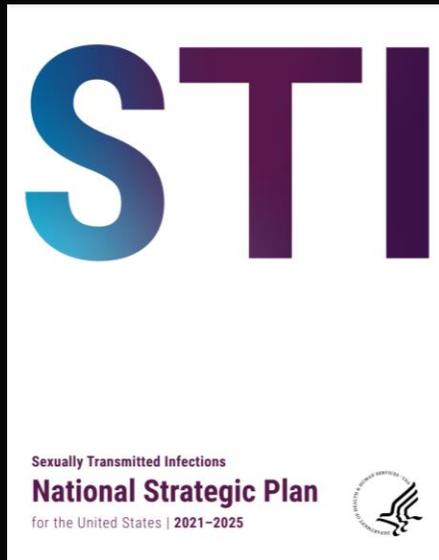
NASTAD's syndemic approaches center an equity-driven response to the epidemics of HIV, viral hepatitis, STIs and the infectious disease-related harms of drug use.

NASTAD's working statement on syndemic approaches (2023).

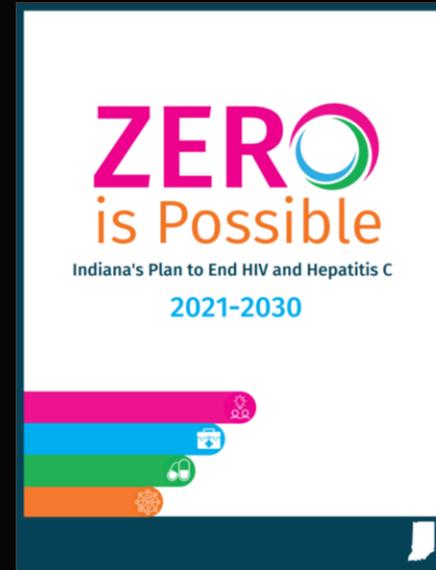
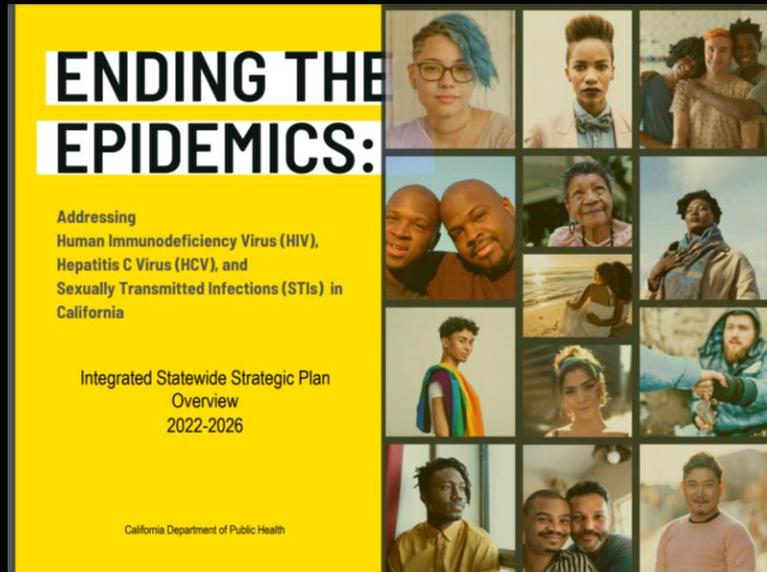
National Snapshot of Syndemic Approaches

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

Syndemic Planning | Federal



Syndemic Planning | Jurisdictional



Contracting/Sub- contracting: Syndemic Grantmaking

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: ID.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: ID.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.

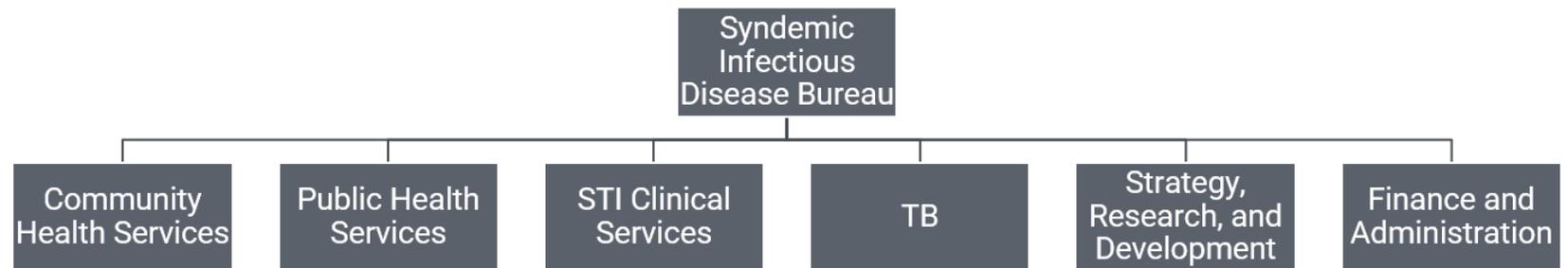
[Expand all](#)

Eligible Program Activities ▾

How to Apply ▾

Application Materials - Syndemic ▾

CDPH Syndemic ID Bureau – Current State



Total FTE: ~140

Infrastructure/
Systems-level
Change

Thank you!

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