



Allegheny County Department of Human Services

# RFP Response Form

## RFP for Opioid and other Substance Use Disorder Interventions that are Led, Designed and Operated within and by Highly-Impacted Communities

### PROPOSER INFORMATION

Proposer Name: Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation

Authorized Representative Name & Title: Sarah Rosso, Executive Director

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Website: www.hughlane.org

Legal Status:  For-Profit  Nonprofit  Sole Proprietor/Individual  Partnership

Women Owned:  Yes  No

Minority Owned:  Yes  No

If yes, select the ethnicity:

- American Indian or Alaska Native  Black or of African decent  
 Hispanic or Latino/a  Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander  
 Western Asian/Middle Eastern  East Asian/Far Eastern  
 South Asian/Indian (Subcontinent)  Southeast Asian  
 Other Asian  Multi-racial

Self-Describe: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Faith Based:  Yes  No

Partners included in this Proposal: N/A

How did you hear about this RFP? Through the Bonfire notification system.

# RFP for Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorder Interventions that are Led, Designed and Operated within and by Highly-Impacted Communities

## PROPOSAL INFORMATION

1. Total dollar amount requested: \$104,261.75

2. Which category does your proposed intervention fall under? Select all that apply.

**Education** – Expanding timely access to quality and comprehensive information about the spectrum of OUD/SUD interventions, including holistic approaches to prevention, treatment, de-stigmatization and recovery

**Engagement/Outreach** – Cultivating ongoing, person-centered relationships with underserved and/or vulnerable communities and individuals

**Linkages to Treatment** – Creating or expanding connections between affected communities, creating or expanding informal community-based peer support programs and providing information about use of MOUD (supplementary to the existing infrastructure of formal, institutional supports)

**Other** (*please briefly explain.*)

Click or tap here to enter text.

3. Proposal summary (*please use only one sentence*):

Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation will use its platforms to educate constituent communities with de-stigmatizing public health messaging; engage with community members vulnerable to opioid use and abuse; and Hugh Lane Community Health Workers (who are peer support staff) will link community members with appropriate supports, providers, and treatment.

## REQUIRED CONTACTS

	Name	Phone	Email
Chief Executive Officer	Sarah Rosso	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Contract Processing Contact	Sarah Rosso	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Chief Information Officer	Guillermo Biro	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Chief Financial Officer	Guillermo Biro	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
MPER Contact*	Larry Shaffer	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

\* [MPER](#) is DHS's provider and contract management system. Please list an administrative contact who will update and manage this system for your agency.

**RFP for Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorder Interventions that are Led, Designed and Operated within and by Highly-Impacted Communities**

**BOARD INFORMATION**

*\* For the Board Chairperson, you must list an address, email address and phone number that are different than the organization's.*

Board Chairperson Name & Title: Dr. Stacy Lane, DO; Founder, Central Outreach Wellness Center

Board Chairperson Address: [REDACTED]

Board Chairperson Telephone: [REDACTED]

Board Chairperson Email Address: [REDACTED]

Partners included in this Proposal: N/A

How did you hear about this RFP? *Please be specific.* Bonfire notification system.

**REFERENCES**

Provide the name, affiliation and contact information [include email address and telephone number] for three references who are able to address relevant experience with your organization. *Please do not use employees of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services as references.*

Lisa Stone, LCSW, Central Outreach Wellness Center, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Lyndsey Sicker, Executive Director, Proud Haven, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

John Easter, Executive Director, True T, [REDACTED]

**CERTIFICATION**

Please check the following before submitting your Proposal, as applicable:

I have read the standard County terms and conditions for County contracts and the requirements for DHS Cyber Security, EEOC/Non-Discrimination, HIPAA and Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law.

By submitting this Proposal, I certify and represent to the County that all submitted materials are true and accurate, and that I have not offered, conferred or agreed to confer any pecuniary benefit or other thing of value for the receipt of special treatment, advantaged information, recipient's decision, opinion, recommendation, vote or any other exercise of discretion concerning this RFP.

## **RFP for Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorder Interventions that are Led, Designed and Operated within and by Highly-Impacted Communities**

Choose one:

My Proposal contains information that is either a trade secret or confidential proprietary information and I have included a written statement signed by an authorized representative identifying those portions or parts of my Proposal and providing contact information.

OR

My Proposal does not contain information that is either a trade secret or confidential and/or proprietary.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Please submit the following attachments with your Response Form. These can be found at <http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/solicitations>.

- One letter of support from a community-based organization or individual
- Partner commitment letters, if applicable
- MWDBE and VOSB documents
- W-9

### **REQUIREMENTS**

Please respond to the following. The maximum score a Proposal can receive is 80 points. Your response to this section should not exceed 5 pages. (Pages 1-3 are not included in the page count).

## **RFP for Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorder Interventions that are Led, Designed and Operated within and by Highly-Impacted Communities**

### **Approach (25 points)**

1. Describe your organization's proposed intervention, including the services that will be provided and the intended outcomes. (10 points)

Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation will focus on three prevention and intervention strategies.

1) **Education:** Hugh Lane will work with LGBTQ+ and HIV community members in recovery to create a harm reduction public health campaign aimed at reducing stigma around opioid use and abuse, humanizing people who have used or abused opioids, and sharing available harm reduction resources for community members. In addition, because of the high rates of stimulant use in LGBTQ+ people, the campaign will address the increased risks associated with combined opioid and stimulant use.

In addition, Hugh Lane Community Health Workers (CHWs: health-focused peer support workers who share lived experience with clients) will visit LGBTQ+ bars, event spaces, and event organizers to distribute and train representatives to use Narcan; to educate representatives about opioid use; and to distribute opioid harm reduction kits to be made accessible in bar and event spaces with fentanyl test strips, numbers and other contact for harm reduction resources, and Hugh Lane CHW contact information.

2) **Engagement & Outreach:** Hugh Lane CHWs will spend time at LGBTQ+ and HIV+ bars, events, activities, as well as medical and service providers to engage directly with those vulnerable to opioid use and abuse. CHWs will engage with community members, sharing information about Hugh Lane programs and services, distributing opioid harm reduction kits, and sharing information about Narcan availability and effectiveness. CHWs will share about Narcan drop-in training hours, when community members can stop by the Hugh Lane office to receive Narcan and be trained in its use.

When members of the community who are vulnerable to opioid use and abuse come to the office to utilize other Hugh Lane services like the Hugh's Kitchen food and hygiene pantry, safer sex kits, or legal aid services, they will be offered Narcan training and opioid harm reduction kits, and offered a connection with a CHW. When clients come to Narcan drop-in training, they will also be offered CHW support, access to Hugh's Kitchen, legal aid, and additional services.

3) **Linkages to Treatment:** CHWs provide a range of services similar to traditional case management, with the addition of shared lived experience and additional levels of peer support. When CHWs work with clients vulnerable to opioid use, using opioids, or abusing opioids, they will offer linkages to treatment and relevant providers/services in addition to support that could help reduce vulnerabilities like housing support, employment support, and mental and physical healthcare navigation.

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2. Which focus community(ies) and population(s) does your organization plan to serve? Explain how this community and population have been disproportionately impacted by the opioid epidemic. (15 points)

Hugh Lane's mission is to raise health with LGBTQ+ and HIV communities by addressing social determinants of health. While Hugh Lane doesn't turn anyone away from services of any sexual, gender or HIV status, its primary focus is serving LGBTQ+ and HIV communities.

The National LGBT Health Education Center (A Program of the Fenway Institute) released a special report on Addressing Opioid Use Disorder among LGBTQ Populations. It reports that LGBTQ+ people across all adult age brackets are significantly more likely to have misused prescription opioids than straight adults, and reports that LGBTQ+ people have almost three times greater risk of opioid use disorder compared to straight populations. According to SAMHSA's 2021 and 2022 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health, bisexual women, lesbians, and bisexual men show the highest rates of opioid misuse.

In addition, there are particularly high rates of stimulant use among men who have sex with men. With the increased opioid use rates among bisexual men, they are at increased risk of overdose, should they combine stimulant and opioid use. Interventions are needed to address this unique context.

LGBTQ+ and HIV communities' drug use can be understood within the context of minority stress, especially as the U.S. cultural environment continues to involve inflamed anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric. High levels of external negative stigma against LGBTQ+ people can disrupt coping, regulative, and relational systems, leaving LGBTQ+ people isolated and struggling to respond to struggles, crises, and trauma resiliently or adaptively. Opioids can give a sense of relief, pleasure, even euphoria. This coping with opioid use and misuse can have negative impacts on mental health, physical health, and financial health; as well as increase rates of transmission of STDs including HIV.

### **Community Designed and Operated (45 points)**

3. Explain how your organization's proposed intervention will be community designed and operated, including a plan to include community members in the planning, design and/or implementation of the intervention. (15 points)

100% of Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation's staff has LGBTQ+ and/or HIV lived experience, with a diversity of lived experience across gender, sexuality, race, ability, recovery/sobriety status, mental health challenges, income levels, and experiences with legal and government systems. Programs are designed collaboratively, with representation from staff who share lived experience with the population/s the programs serve or seek to serve.

In addition, Hugh Lane has an advisory board made up of a diversity of LGBTQ+

## **RFP for Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorder Interventions that are Led, Designed and Operated within and by Highly-Impacted Communities**

and HIV experiences. The advisory board has direct input on program planning, design, lamentation and analysis.

Should Hugh Lane be awarded this contract, the organization would select between 3-7 LGBTQ+ and HIV people in opioid use recovery to participate in the public health harm reduction education campaign. The participants would have direct input on messaging, graphics, tone, and direction of the campaign.

4. Explain why your organization is the appropriate provider to implement the proposed intervention, including a description of your organization's experience providing support or services to, with, or within communities that have been disproportionately affected by the opioid epidemic. (15 points)

Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation is the go-to organization for supporting the health of LGBTQ+ and HIV communities in Western Pennsylvania. Hugh Lane wraparound services ensure that clients can enter through any program or service and be connected to as many supports and programs as appropriate to meet multiple needs, from isolation to food, job, or housing insecurity, legal problems, behavioral health needs, or healthcare navigation.

Hugh Lane has Community Health Workers already in place and working with clients who have been affected by the opioid epidemic. In addition Hugh's Kitchen food and hygiene pantry, legal services, and youth services all serve clients disproportionately at risk of and affected by the opioid pandemic, providing food, safer sex supplies, hygiene kits, housing and identification documentation legal services, and social and behavioral health programs. Youth services works with youth referred to Hugh Lane programs from the CYF system, including those whose parents struggle with opioid use disorder, providing whole-family support, behavioral health interventions, social connection, out-of-school time programming, and mentorship.

Hugh Lane works to address the conditions that determine health and well-being to support resilient, financially secure, socially connected, mentally and physically cared for community members and communities. That can look like helping clients secure LGBTQ+-affirming employment, housing, or healthcare; providing mental health supports or cognitive behavioral health interventions; addressing legal issues; meeting basic food or hygiene needs; providing emergency housing or utilities assistance; connecting clients with social supports or activities; and more.

Hugh Lane is focused on lived-experience-lead, person-first, barrier-removing, harm-reducing care to support the health and well-being of LGBTQ+ and HIV communities.

5. Describe your organization's plan for staffing, including roles, role descriptions and any training requirements. Proposers should demonstrate how the staffing plan reflects their commitment to prioritizing interventions led/staffed by Black individuals and individuals in recovery. (10 points)

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Hugh Lane's Communications Manager will recruit, manage, and implement the public health harm reduction education project. Working with community members in recovery, the Communications Manager will develop messaging and visuals to reduce stigma, humanize opioid use and misuse, and share resources for harm reduction.

Two Community Health Workers will engage in bar and event Narcan outreach and training as well as opioid harm reduction kit distribution; outreach and kit distribution to individuals at bar and event spaces; in-house community drop-in Narcan training; and case management/treatment linkage for individuals. Community Health Workers are certified through a Pennsylvania DHS-approved program.

One Lead Clinician (LCSW) and one SOGIE Engagement Coordinator (Psychology BA) will provide psychosocial support to individuals vulnerable to, using, or misusing opioids. Psychosocial support can include psychosocial assessment of spiritual, cultural, social, mental and material wellness; identifying safety, community, and recovery goals; sober social groups and activities; and recovery service identification and accompaniment.

One Youth Services Navigator (MSW; LCSW candidate) will provide psychosocial support to any youth identified as impacted by the opioid epidemic.

The majority of staff implementing this project are Black, all are LGBTQ+ and/or HIV community members. There are staff involved in the design and implementation of the program impacted by the opioid epidemic, and 3-7 recovering community members will co-design and co-implement the education project.

6. Attach one letter of support from a community-based organization or individual that speaks to your experience building trust with or within an affected community; this letter should include at least one specific example. (5 points)

### **Budget (10 points, not included in page count)**

7. Attach a detailed, line-item budget that reflects a realistic estimate of the costs associated with planning, implementing and sustaining the intervention. (5 points)
8. Provide a budget narrative that clearly explains and justifies all line items in the proposed budget. (5 points)





Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation Opioid Use Harm Reduction

Item	Description	Rate	Units	Total
Community Health Worker	One Third CHW	\$23,381.15	2	\$46,762.30
Communications Manager	5 Hours Weekly, Annualized	\$10,194.08	1	\$10,194.08
Lead Clinician	One Fifth Lead Clinician	\$18,094.83	1	\$18,094.83
Youth Services Navigator	5 Hours Weekly, Annualized	\$7,885.54	1	\$7,885.54
Printing and Supplies	Palm cards with resources/info, CHW cards	\$0.15	3,000	\$450.00
Ad Buys	Social media, online LGBTQ+ media, Bus ads	\$500.00	5	\$2,500.00
Transportation Support	Bus passes	\$2.75	500	\$1,375.00
Fentanyl Test Strips	Strips to test for the presence of fentanyl	\$1.00	2,000	\$2,000.00
Narcan	Narcan nasal spray to prevent overdose	\$30.00	500	\$15,000.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$104,261.75</b>

To fund the staff executing this project, Hugh Lane requests one third salary and fringe for two Community Health Workers at \$46,762.30. The Communications Manager will spend five hours weekly on this project for a total of \$10,194.08. The Lead Clinician will spend one fifth of their time providing and managing psychosocial support, for a total of \$18,094.83. The Youth Services Navigator will spend five hours weekly providing psychosocial support for affected youth for a total of \$7,885.54.

Hugh Lane will purchase palm cards for the harm reduction kits for \$450; ad space online and on buses for \$2,500 to amplify the public health harm reduction campaign ; bus passes to ensure clients can travel to and from services for \$1375; fentanyl test strips for the harm reduction kits for \$2000; and Narcan to distribute to bars, event spaces and individuals for \$15,000.



**Proud Haven**

*A Place To Be Home*

To the Review Team:

LGBTQ+ people are disproportionately affected by the opioid epidemic, and there is no organization in Allegheny County better equipped to serve our communities than Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation.

Proud Haven serves LGBTQ+ people experiencing or at risk of becoming unhoused or unstably housed. Many of our clients are impacted by or vulnerable to opioid misuse or abuse. Proud Haven has long counted on Hugh Lane as a partner in serving the most vulnerable LGBTQ+ community members.

Hugh Lane's staff, like Proud Haven's, all have lived experience in LGBTQ+ communities, and ensure that people with lived experience are involved from program design, to implementation, to ongoing execution, to analysis and quality improvement. Hugh Lane ensures that there are very low barriers to program entry, and that their clients are connected to as many in-house services as appropriate, and Hugh Lane gives warm hand-offs to additional service providers like Proud Haven and other community partners.

Proud Haven has always felt confident referring clients to Hugh Lane as well. Proud Haven clients who have been referred to Hugh Lane have expressed that staff were warm and caring, that Hugh Lane staff connected them to service providers who shared life experience with them, and that Hugh Lane staff went above and beyond to meet their needs, and connect them with peers and services that supported their needs.

Proud Haven is happy to recommend Hugh Lane for this important work, and looks forward to supporting their efforts to address issues, like the opioid epidemic, impacting LGBTQ+ people in Allegheny County.

*Lyndsey Sickler*

Lyndsey Sickler (Aug 29, 2023 13:38 EDT)

Lyndsey Sickler, Executive Director