**SEPTEMBER 2019 EDITION**

**CHANGES TO DDP WEBSITE COMING**
DDP staff is working diligently to provide a useful user experience with the DDP external website. Information on the site is being restructured so that the public can easily understand and access information throughout the site and so that community partners and clinicians will be able to access all relevant information with ease.

New pages and a new site structure will begin in October. You may need to reset any saved URLs for DDP web pages that you currently have. During the time of transition if you find any broken links or issues with the website, you may report them to Chris Barnett at christopher.barnett@vdh.virginia.gov.

**NEW AUTHORIZED CHR SITE**
DDP is pleased to announce the authorization of Virginia’s fourth Comprehensive Harm Reduction (CHR) site. VDH approved the Council of Community Services application in August. Roanoke is experiencing high hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection rates due to needle sharing in the area, and has also seen a high rate of overdose deaths. Having a CHR program will allow access to sterile syringes and Naloxone, which should help address these public health issues.

CCS anticipates starting services in early fall, and will focus on distributing and collecting syringes and other harm reduction supplies through mobile outreach. CCS has had a successful harm reduction program (without syringes or Naloxone) for the past five years in the Roanoke area so the transition to a CHR program will enhance their efforts. For additional information on the DDP CHR program, please visit the [CHR webpage](#).

**NEW COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS FROM CDC**
On September 3, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a CDC Dear Colleague letter announcing the release of a new suite of communication tools in support of Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America. Resources include new websites, widgets for service location and information for providers. To read the letter and access the new resources, click [here](#).

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE**
The Virginia Department of Health, DDP has issued a request for applications...
for a continuum of HIV prevention-related services for people of unknown, HIV negative and HIV positive status. A total of $2,700,000 is available for the grant year beginning January 1, 2020, with funds from both the CDC PS18-1802 Cooperative Agreement and pharmaceutical rebates. Applications are due October 3, 2019.

Questions should be directed as indicated within the application. The application and terms and conditions may be accessed here: https://m.vendor.epro.cipdc.com/Vendor/public/ADVSODetails.jsp?Details_Page=ADVSODetails.jsp&DOC_CD=RFA&DEPT_CD=A601&BID_INTRNL_NO=20&BID_NO=20&BID_VERS_NO=1.

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

DDP strives to provide learning opportunities for staff, community partners, providers, and stakeholders. Information and skill building activities are provided throughout the year in various forms from webinars, face-to-face workshops, conferences, meetings, conference calls, one-on-one technical assistance, etc. Mark your calendars for upcoming educational events in 2019 (dates are subject to change).

- **October 5**: The inaugural ManCave Straight Talk gathering designed by, and for, heterosexual men living with HIV. This gathering is being developed in response to requests from the community. For more information, contact Marquietta Alston at (804) 864-8006.
- **October 9-10**: New Virginia Initiatives for HIV Prevention will include a one day Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) summit followed by a one day Harm Reduction summit. Individuals may attend either or both days. The meetings will include best practices and lessons learned as well as information for program start up. A pre-conference workshop, Mental Health First Aid, will be offered on October 8. Additional information and registration will be available soon. For more information, contact Bruce Taylor at (804) 864-8015.
- **October 25-26**: Priceless, Positive, Powerful Women’s Conference. This educational event uses a holistic health approach and is designed specifically for women living with HIV. Registration coming soon. For more information, contact Marquietta Alston at (804) 864-8006.
- **Coming this fall**: Quarterly Community Health Worker/Service Navigator workshop which will provide an opportunity to learn new information, share best practices, and network with peers. For more information, contact Adyam Redae at (804) 864-7960.
- **Coming in November**: The first Long Term Survivor Gathering for persons who have been living with HIV for 25 years or more. More information coming soon. For questions, contact Marquietta Alston at (804) 864-8006.
- **November 13**: A small group, Fund Development workshop. Community-based organizations will have the opportunity to learn more about the importance of succinctly articulating their agency’s “story” in preparation for raising funds to sustain their organization and implement services. Space will be limited to 25 persons. More information and registration coming soon. For questions, contact Marquietta Alston at (804) 864-8006.
- **November 14**: A small group, grant-writing workshop for beginners and as a refresher for experienced grant writers. More information and registration coming soon. For questions, contact Marquietta Alston at (804) 864-8006.
- **November 15-17**: The Mind, Body and Soul holistic health conference is designed for gay men and transgender persons. More information and registration coming. For more details, contact Adyam Redae at (804) 864-7960.
GREATER THAN AIDS CASTING CALL
Greater Than AIDS is currently looking for women and Latinx persons that are living with HIV. If selected, these individuals would discuss their journey from diagnosis to getting into care and treatment in a public information campaign.

All interested individuals should apply by completing a questionnaire here. It takes about 10 minutes to complete. DDP partners may refer any women or Latinx persons living with HIV to the online questionnaire.

Honorariums are provided to individuals that are selected to be in the campaign. For questions, email greaterthan@kff.org.

ASE GRANT FUNDING AWARDED
Four awards have been made for the AIDS Services and Education (ASE) grants program. The ASE program is designed to provide innovative HIV prevention projects to people who inject drugs (PWID) and transgender people. The awards are as follows:

- **LGBT Life Center** in Norfolk will implement TWEET, an evidence-informed intervention utilizing the Popular Opinion Leader program specifically designed for transgender women of color. Other activities will include outreach, HIV and HCV testing, PrEP, status neutral services navigation, and condom distribution.
- **Nationz Foundation** in Richmond will implement their Transcend program for transgender women. This homegrown program consists of the following components: outreach, HIV, HCV, and other STD counseling and testing, PrEP education and navigation, status-neutral service navigation, healing and mindfulness workshops, condom distribution, education on financial literacy, job readiness, and related topics, the T-SISTA group-level intervention, and transgender support groups.
- **NovaSalud** in Falls Church received awards for both PWID and Transgender services. They will use Social Network Strategies for HIV and HCV testing. The program will include outreach, PrEP education and assistance services, status neutral service navigation, and condom distribution.

Ted Heck will serve as contract administrator for the ASE grants and can be contacted at (804) 864-8012 or ted.heck@vdh.virginia.gov.

PERSONNEL
Farewell
Elizabeth (Beth) Leftwich, HIV Prevention Evaluation Specialist, had her last day with DDP on August 23, 2019. She has taken an analyst position with the Department of Social Services. Beth played a lead role in the management of two federal demonstration projects over the past four years. We wish her well on her new journey. Please contact Mary Beth Cox for any HIV Prevention evaluation inquiries you may have at marybeth.cox@vdh.virginia.gov.