



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

MARY T. BASSETT, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

KRISTIN M. PROUD
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

October 5, 2022

Shanna Witherspoon
Assistant Commissioner for Finance & Administration
Albany County DOH
175 Green Street
Albany, New York 12202

Dear Shanna Witherspoon:

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute / Health Research, Inc. (NYSDOH AI/HRI) intends to continue and enhance the Expanded Partner Services Program (ExPS) contract with Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH). Activities supported under this funding represent collaboration between the NYSDOH and ACDOH. These entities will work together to facilitate the re-engagement in medical care of persons thought to be out-of-care living with HIV/AIDS, notify, test partners, and refer all HIV positive and high-risk negative patients they encounter through this initiative to appropriate prevention, care, and support services (e.g., referrals for PrEP and nPEP, HIV/STI testing, HCV screening, treatment adherence support), provide condoms/other safe sex supplies and conduct/provide sexual health education and/or campaigns.

The new annual amount of the contract will be \$348,749. The initial contract will run for five months from November 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023; and will be written for a prorated amount of \$206,562. Thereafter, the contract period will be on a 4/1 – 3/31 contract cycle. The long-term goal of this initiative is to reduce disease incidence, decrease the rate of STI/HIV transmission, reduce risky sexual and drug using behaviors among STI/HIV infected persons by applying harm reduction strategies to educate and link patients to services, increase the proportion of STI/HIV infected individuals who are aware of their status, and increase the proportion of exposed partners who are notified, tested, linked to prevention and treatment/medical care.

Contingent upon the availability of future funding, the NYSDOH AI/HRI will continue to provide ACDOH funding in subsequent years for the continuation of PS activities. The contractual process will include the requirement of several approvals. Once all the approvals are obtained, the documentation will be submitted to Health Research Inc. to process the contracts. Health Research Inc. will forward the agreement to your organization for signature.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (518) 473-7238.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Kerwin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michele Kerwin
Associate Director, Office of Administration & Contract Management
NYS Department of Health, AIDS Institute

cc: Megan Johnson, Director, Bureau of HIV/STI Field Services
Leah Caola, Director, Office of Administration & Contract Management