

National Syringe Services Program Evaluation

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Supporting Statement B

New Collection

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## **Justification\_**

The primary purpose of this information collection is to monitor and evaluate the PS22-2208 Component 2 funding opportunity's overall goal of supporting SSP subrecipients in meeting the needs of people who use drugs (PWUD) and reducing infectious disease and other harms related to drug use. CDC has funded the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDs Directors (NASTAD) to implement this project.

### **1. Respondent Universe and Sampling Methods**

The project will include all PS22-2208 SSP subrecipients (up to 200 programs). Subrecipients will receive an e-mail invitation to complete a baseline REDCap survey at funding start (attachment 3) and an e-mail invitation to complete a quarterly survey at the end of each funded quarter (attachment 4). Informal reminders may take place during standing meetings (i.e., videoconferences and calls) with NASTAD. If the survey is not completed after one month, NASTAD will collaborate with the subrecipient to determine an alternate method of survey completion. The most updated list of SSPs funded by NASTAD through PS22-2208 Component 2 will serve as the respondent universe.

NASTAD, in partnership with University of Washington, will collect monitoring and evaluation data from funded SSPs through their internal mechanisms, both for their internal evaluation as well as to report semiannual and annual project performance reports and stratified aggregate data to CDC.

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Participation in this information collection is requested for all PS22-2208 Component 2 subrecipients, but no subrecipients will be required to respond to any questions that do not apply to their program (i.e., data the program does not collect, services the program does not offer). If subrecipients opt to complete the survey by phone or videoconference, the survey will be administered by their programmatic point-of-contact at NASTAD in a private location so that their responses cannot be overheard.

## **2. Procedures for the Collection of Information**

Data will be collected electronically to minimize burden to respondents. The survey will be offered online using a secure web-based application, like REDCap. This self-administered survey modality will include programmed logic checks, skip patterns, and range values, thereby improving the quality of the data and reducing burden for respondents. Respondents who do not wish to complete the survey online via secure web-based application will be given other options including to schedule a telephone or videoconference interview with a study interviewer. All data, regardless of survey modality used, will be entered into a secure web-based application, like REDCap. The burden to respondents will remain the same regardless of mode of administration.

### Quality Control

Data quality will be ensured through project staff training and regular, close monitoring of all operations, data collection, and data entry. The web-based application, REDCap, will further improve data quality in several ways:

- a) Interviewer errors are reduced because interviewers do not have to follow complex routing instructions; the computer does the routing or skip patterns for them.
- b) Respondent errors are also reduced. Consistency checks are programmed into the survey so that inconsistent answers or out-of-range values can be corrected or explained while the survey is in progress.
- c) The use of a web-based application can also reduce coding and coding errors, which makes it possible to prepare the data for analysis faster and with fewer errors.

Data entered into the web-based application will be transmitted directly to a secure server. The award recipient will conduct frequent data quality checks and make adjustments as needed. At the conclusion of data collection, the award recipient will clean the full dataset and send a finalized aggregated report to CDC.

## **3. Methods to Maximize Response Rates and Minimize Non-response**

SSPs will receive an initial invitation to the baseline and quarterly evaluation surveys from NASTAD and UW through REDCap. The email will include a brief description of the survey and a unique link to the survey. SSPs will be encouraged to fill out the survey using the

unique link but will also be offered the option to complete the survey via interviewer-administration via phone or video conferencing. Response rates will be monitored through standing conference calls by award recipient and CDC, offering the opportunity to share strategies for improving response rates.

To be eligible to complete the survey, SSPs must be subrecipients of this award (PS22-2208 Component 2). SSP subrecipients will be requested to participate in both surveys but can decline to answer questions about data that they do not collect. We anticipate that approximately 100% of 200 SSPs will take the surveys per year.

#### **4. Tests of Procedures or Methods to be Undertaken**

The Program Evaluation for PS22-2208 Component 2 will focus on methods that are feasible and practical, while ensuring that the approach is scientifically sound. Prior to implementation, the award recipient staff will test the skip patterns and responses of the data collection instruments to ensure a streamlined data collection instrument that produces valid and reliable data.

#### **5. Individuals Consulted on Statistical Aspects and Individuals Collecting and/or Analyzing Data**

##### Individuals Collecting and/or Analyzing Data

The award recipient, staff at NASTAD, and their partners, will be responsible for leading the baseline and quarterly surveys with their SSP subrecipients, monitoring survey participation, managing incoming evaluation data, and analyzing the evaluation data.

##### NASTAD Project Staff and Partners

All award recipient project staff and partners can be reached at the following address:

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