



Relief, Recovery and Resilience Fund: Supporting the HIV Community Impacted by Mpox Request for Proposals Reissued June 27, 2023

AIDS United’s Relief, Recovery and Resilience Fund (RRR Fund) was established in 2017 to help meet the immediate and urgent needs of people living with and at risk for HIV in regions affected by urgent crises like earthquakes, hurricanes, and global pandemics. The goal of the fund is to provide critical assistance to organizations led by and serving people living with HIV (PLWH). To help prevent a resurgence of HIV and to support overall health in the communities we serve, the fund supports access to HIV care, housing, food, organizational infrastructure, and much more. To date, the fund has provided approximately \$2.7 million to organizations impacted by disasters.

The overarching vision of the RRR Fund is that HIV service organizations impacted by disasters are able to sustain their programming for and services to PLWH, provide direct relief to PLWH, continue their organizational recovery efforts, ramp up to full operation, and effectively plan for future catastrophes. AIDS United’s rapid-response funding seeks to mitigate the negative impacts of disasters on PLWH, providing grassroots organizations with funding to respond to challenges so that PLWH do not experience a disruption in their physical or mental health care.

“Supporting the HIV Community Impacted by Mpox” is funded by a contribution from the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health).

Background and Purpose

The United States is currently facing multiple epidemics, including HIV, viral hepatitis, overdose, COVID-19, and mpox, all amid a resurgence in the call to end racial injustices in this country. When crises hit, the organizations serving people living with and affected by HIV must begin the arduous process of assessing the impact of these crises and meeting their clients’ most pressing needs. Because the forces that drive the HIV epidemic are intrinsically linked to issues of race, sexuality, income, and stigma, addressing these issues with a justice and equity framing guides all of AIDS United’s work.

In 2020, 67% of new HIV diagnoses occurred among men who have sex with men (MSM) at a rate that has remained constant since 2018. Of the diagnoses among MSM, 74% were reported among non-white men, primarily among Black/African American (42%) and Latinx/Hispanic (27%) men. Adult and adolescent Black/African American men accounted for

42% of all cases of HIV, followed by Latinx/Hispanic men at 27%. These disparities demonstrate the overrepresentation of these communities in new HIV incidence as African American and Latinx people make up only 12% and 19% of the population in the United States, respectively¹.

Many of the same communities that HIV disproportionately impacts have also been disproportionately impacted by mpox. In 2022, mpox cases rapidly increased in countries where the disease is not endemic. From May 2022 to December 14, 2022, there were 29,646 cases of mpox, with 29 deaths, in the United States and its territories. mpox data demonstrate trends of overrepresentation of marginalized communities in the following:

- Since the mpox pandemic began in the US and its territories, an overwhelming majority of people 11-65 who were diagnosed with mpox were men.²
- Transgender women between the ages of 20 and 45 have had increased cases as well. (CDC, 2022)
- As of December 2022, 55% of new cases have been Black or African American people, 21% White, and 17% Hispanic or Latinx. (CDC, 2022)

Current Funding Opportunity

Through the Relief, Recovery and Resilience Fund, AIDS United will provide **grants of up to \$20,000** to help organizations address community needs related to mpox. **Current available funds total \$150,000**. We anticipate making 7-10 grants that may support activities such as the following:

- Service provision
 - Outreach and vaccine education to people living with/affected by HIV and mpox
 - Vaccine provision to people living with/affected by HIV and mpox
 - Medical services and case management for people living with/affected by HIV and mpox
 - Emotional or mental health support for staff, volunteers, or participants living with/affected by HIV and mpox
- Organizational support
 - Supporting administrative costs not covered by other funding sources

Funding can be used for general operating support or project-specific needs.

AIDS United is making funds available through this request for proposals to assist in meeting the needs of organizations located and performing work in Washington, DC, that serve people living with and vulnerable to HIV and AIDS, and that are experiencing challenges meeting their community's needs due to the impacts of mpox.

¹ CDC's HIV Surveillance Report: Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2020; vol. 33.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, August 22). Mpox cases by age and gender, race/ethnicity, and symptoms. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved December 20, 2022, from <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/demographics.html>

Applicants must have HIV as one of their focus areas and utilize a racial and social justice framework. Additionally, organizations must clearly articulate the importance of the issue or challenge that they or their community (communities) is (are) experiencing, the current opportunity to address the issue or challenge, and why the applicant is the appropriate entity to address the stated need.

Funding priorities

The current funding priorities are to support organizations that work for and with people living with HIV, vulnerable to HIV, and most affected by HIV. Applicants should be led by people who represent the communities they serve.

Program Goals

Organizations can apply for funding to support one or both program goals:

1. **Goal 1:** Implementing focused efforts to increase education and vaccine coverage in populations disproportionately affected by mpox, including by providing vaccines at venues frequented by affected populations through mobile clinics and special vaccine events and through collaboration with community-based organizations.
2. **Goal 2:** Implementing creative approaches to saturate networks experiencing mpox transmission with vaccination and other relevant services, including but not limited to incentivized, network-based recruiting. Recipients are encouraged to engage (and possibly fund) community-based organizations to conduct vaccine events and outreach among those most at risk (for example, within bathhouses and sex venues, circuit parties, and the house and ball community events).

Eligibility

Receipt of funds — Applicants or their fiscal sponsor must have the capacity to receive award funds electronically.

Geographic location — Applicants must be located and perform work within Washington, DC, as documented by providing a District of Columbia Business License.

Nonprofit status — Applicants must be nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations, per the guidelines set forth by the Internal Revenue Service with proper 501(c)(3) status. Organizations or coalitions that do not hold 501(c)(3) status must have a fiscal sponsor that does. Note that *AIDS United cannot give grants to individuals or to for-profit companies.*

Financial stability — Organizations should be fiscally stable and viable prior to submission of the funding application. These funds are not intended to serve as a replacement for discontinued funding.

Grant period — Applicant must be able to implement all project activities and utilize the funds by January 31, 2024. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. ET on July 7, 2023. The grant period will run from July 15, 2023, through January 31, 2024.

Application Process and Reporting

Application content — Applicants must respond to the application questions and provide their or their fiscal sponsor's attachments outlined below. Additional, brief materials that would provide substantial support to the grant request may be submitted but are neither required nor expected.

Submission — Applications must be submitted through [this online form](#). There is no submission through AIDS United's Grantee Community for this funding opportunity. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. ET on July 7, 2023.

Award amounts — Grant awards will range from \$1,500 - \$20,000, depending on applicant need.

Application decisions — Applications will be reviewed and decisions will be made by a diverse committee inclusive of people living with HIV in Washington, DC. *Grants will be awarded as long as funds are available.*

Timeline — The anticipated time between application submission and notification of a decision is one to two weeks after the July 7, 2023 application deadline.

Reporting — RRR Fund grantees must submit a baseline survey, an interim assessment, and a final report within one month of the end of their grant period. Reporting questions will be sent toward the beginning of the grant period, and grantees will receive a reminder 4 weeks before the deadline outlined in their grant agreement. Reports may be submitted via online form.

Questions — Please email grants@aidsunited.org if you have any questions about the fund or this application. We respectfully ask for your patience and request that you refrain from reaching out for the status of your application until at least three weeks after submission.

***Please review the following instructions and requirements carefully.
Incomplete applications will not be considered.***

Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. ET July 7, 2023.

Grant Application

Applications must be submitted via [this online application form](#).

Applicant Information

Organization Information

- Applicant organization name
- Organization address
- Organization EIN
- Website
- Organization mission
- Total organizational budget figure for your current fiscal year

Contact Information

- Authorizing official name, title, and email
- Contact person name, title, and email (if different from the authorizing official above)
- Phone number

Fiscal sponsor Information (if applicable)

- Fiscal sponsor organization name
- Contact person name, title, and email
- Address
- Phone number
- EIN
- Website

Other information

How did you find out about this funding opportunity?

Application Narrative

- ★ *Responses to the questions below should be brief, **no longer than the equivalent of two pages, single-spaced, with 11-point font**. Bullets are acceptable in place of or in addition to paragraphs.*
- ★ *Please be assured that AIDS United does not expect applications to be longer than they need to be. So filling the equivalent of two pages is not required.*

Please state the grant amount you are requesting. The maximum grant award is \$20,000.

1. Briefly describe the intended use of funds.
 - a. How will your project accomplish one or both program goals as described above? Be specific in describing how your project will approach this work and the specific activities you will perform.

- b. Please include the approximate number of people to be served by the requested funds.
2. Briefly share the impact of mpox on your agency and the community.
3. What is the estimated total amount needed to address current and emerging HIV-related service needs of your clients impacted by mpox? Please provide a brief explanation of those total needs. (This information will help with identifying and planning for future funding needs related to mpox.)
4. Briefly describe the communities you serve with your program (e.g., BIPOC, LGBTQ people, people who use drugs, and/or others) and how you ensure meaningful involvement of those communities.
5. How does the proposed project incorporate racial and social justice?
6. How will you know you have succeeded? Please include at least two benchmarks for success and how you will assess progress towards these benchmarks.

Attachments

Please submit the following items as attachments in the [online application form](#).

1. A brief *project budget*, in any format you would like, outlining how funds will be spent. Please submit a budget even if you are requesting general operating support.
 - a. If your organization has a fiscal sponsor, please include any applicable fees in your budget.
2. Your organization's *current W-9* (first page only). The IRS's 2018 [W-9 form](#) is available online, although you can submit one you completed previously, as long as it has been signed within the last year.
3. Your organization's or your fiscal sponsor's *current annual operating budget* document.
4. An *ACH form* (you can send your own or use [AIDS United's template](#)).
5. A copy of your District of Columbia business license
6. A signed *fiscal sponsor agreement* (if applicable).

**Please submit all application materials [online](#) by
no later than 5 p.m. ET July 7, 2023.**

Please send any questions to grants@aidsunited.org.

Thank you for your interest and for your work to end the HIV epidemic.