

SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM (SEP)

Certification Application

I. Applicant Organization Information

Organization Name: Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County		Telephone Number: (831) 345-0838	Date of Application (mm/dd/yyyy): 3 / 11 / 2019		
Proposed SEP Name (if different from above): Harm Reduction Road Show					
Address (Number, Street, Suite #): 1649 Cheryl Way		City: Aptos	County: Santa Cruz	State: Ca	ZIP Code: 95003
Mailing Address (if different from above):		City:	County:	State:	ZIP Code:
Name of SEP Administrator: Denise Elerick		Title: coordinator	Telephone Number: (831) 345-0838	E-Mail Address: HRCofSCC@gmail.com	

II. Services Applicant Currently Provides to Injection Drug Users (IDUs)* (check all applicable boxes)

Drug Abuse Treatment Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Directly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via Referral
HIV or Hepatitis Screening	<input type="checkbox"/> Directly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via Referral
Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B Vaccination	<input type="checkbox"/> Directly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via Referral
Screening for Sexually Transmitted Infections	<input type="checkbox"/> Directly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via Referral
Housing Services for the Homeless, Victims of Domestic Violence, or Other Similar Housing Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Directly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Via Referral
Distribution of Condoms	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directly	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Referral
Risk Reduction Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directly	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Referral
* IMPORTANT: All services must be currently offered (directly or via referral) in order to apply for Certification.		

III. Applicant Organization Description

Please briefly describe the organization's mission and core services: The Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County is a community based organization serving the injection drug using community of Santa Cruz County. Our goal is to slow the spread of preventable blood-borne viruses and other injection related infections and to serve as a liaison in the drug using community to provide overdose prevention naloxone with training on how to properly store and use. The best practice for HIV prevention and care for injection drug users is to provide comprehensive services and referrals that focus on overall health and wellness. This approach emerges from the philosophy of harm reduction; acknowledging that a behavior will take place and doing all we can to minimize the harm to the individual and the community. Referrals to food, clothing and shelter provision, HIV and Hep C testing and treatment as well as substance use disorder treatment can be made upon request.	
Please provide a description of the proposed syringe exchange services and any additional services that will accompany syringe exchange, such as overdose prevention supplies and education: Please refer to attached file "Description of Services"	

IV. Description and Summary of Proposed SEP

Program Service Delivery Mode (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mobile Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both Fixed and Mobile Sites		Estimated Annual Number of Clients to be Served: 150	Estimated Annual Number of Syringes Dispensed & Collected: 100,000 & 75,000-100,000
SEP Location(s), Days and Hours of Operation (if more than three locations, provide all of the requested information below for each additional location in an attachment):			
Name of Location	Address of Location	County	Days and Hours of Operation (e.g. Monday - Friday 2pm to 8pm, Saturday 11am to 2pm)
1. see attached file			
2.			
3.			
Is there a neighborhood association affiliated with the location(s) of your proposed SEP site(s)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please provide the contact name, phone number, and e-mail for the neighborhood association(s) for each location.			
Contact Name	Phone Number	E-mail Address	
1.	()		
2.	()		
3.	()		
For each of the SEP locations above, please describe the staffing (please indicate number of staff, titles of positions, and a brief description of their duties):			
	Number of Staff	Title of Position(s)	Description of Duties
1.	#4	coordinator	accept returned syringes, dispense clean works and syringes and Narcan and Fentanyl Tests strips
		server	serves meal, provides education on safe injecting , treatment, testing referrals , condoms
		back up support	assists with both of the above
		back up support	assists with both of the above
2.	#3	coordinator	accepts used syringes, dispenses clean equipment, Narcan, Fentanyl test strips
		back up support	helps day of and prepping all the equipment
		back up support	helps day of and prepping all the equipment and clean up and reorganizing
3.	#3	coordinator	accepts used syringes, dispenses clean equipment, Narcan, Fentanyl Test strips
		back up support day of	helps day of and prepping all the equipment
		back up support day of and before	helps day of and prepping all the equipment and organizing once we are done
Please provide a short summary paragraph that will be posted on the California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS website, which summarizes the proposed program and includes the name of the applicant organization, the name of the SEP (if different), the location(s), hours and days of service, and types of services to be delivered (not to exceed 150 words):			
In order to prevent the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C and to distribute overdose prevention education to include Naloxone distribution in Santa Cruz County, the Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County will operate mobile services.			
HR Road Show will include education around proper syringe disposal, receive syringes for disposal, overdose prevention & naloxone distribution, syringe and injection supplies access, condom distribution, drug testing (fentanyl test strips), information on safer injection practices, referral to hepatitis C and HIV testing and counseling, referral and collaboration with numerous service providers. Referrals for substance use disorder treatment services, hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccinations, screenings for sexually transmitted infections can be provided upon request. HRC of SCC will be an integral contact for people who have needs beyond the immediate need for safer injection practices. We will strive to include input from people that use drugs.			

V. Needs Statement

Please provide the rationale for the request for Certification in the location(s) specified and use data and other objective sources to document the need. Examples include statistics on HIV infection among IDUs in the local health jurisdiction (LHJ), statistics on viral hepatitis among IDUs in the LHJ, and the presence or absence of other syringe exchange services in the proposed location(s):

We would like to increase outreach in our diverse community with some isolated rural underserved areas to people who use drugs. Many people will not use the county fixed site due to mobility issues, transportation, hours of operation, apprehensions to use a government based medical model program, fear of carrying 'paraphernalia.' We want to adhere to an evidence based best practices program. Need shall be determined by how many syringes are used in one day and how often an individual can access syringe services. Santa Cruz County has a high rate of overdose deaths. We are currently ranked 41st in 58 counties affected by the overdose crisis. Watsonville saw a significant overdose increase in 2018. The areas specified are as listed:

VI. Additional Required Information

Additional requirements for SEP Certification are listed in the California Code of Regulations Subchapter 15, Sections 7000 through 7016, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4.

Applicants must attach a copy of each of the following:

- a) Syringe Dispensing Plan as described in Section 7012(a);
- b) Syringe Collection and Disposal Plan as described in Section 7012(b);
- c) Service Delivery Plan as described in Section 7012(c);
- d) Data Collection and Program Evaluation Plan as described in Section 7012(d);
- e) Community Relations Plan as described in Section 7012(e); and
- f) A budget for the program which includes a minimum projected income and costs for personnel, outside services and operating expenses, including but not limited to rent, utilities, equipment, materials including syringes and disposal containers, transportation, insurance, training, meetings, syringe disposal services, and indirect costs.

A description of each plan can be found on the CDPH/OA Syringe Exchange Certification Program Application Checklist.

VII. Applicant Acknowledgement and Attestation**

The following SEP services must be provided to all participants by State-certified SEPs per Health and Safety Code Section 121349(d)(3):

- Needle and syringe exchange services;
- HIV and viral hepatitis prevention education services; and
- Safe recovery and disposal of used syringes and sharps waste.

The Applicant attests that upon Certification it will comply with state laws, regulations, and local ordinances.

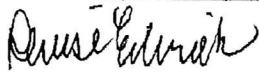
The Applicant also attests that it has the capacity to begin syringe exchange services within ninety (90) days of Certification.

The Applicant further acknowledges and agrees to the involvement of program participant input into program design, implementation, and evaluation.

Signature: **Denise Elerick**

Digitally signed by Denise Elerick;
DN: cn=Denise Elerick, o=Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County, ou, email=HRCofSCC@gmail.com, c=US
Date: 2019.03.11 16:04:54 -0700

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): **03-11-19**



**** IMPORTANT:** Submission of an application does not constitute Certification.

Completed applications for Certification can be submitted via:

Mail:

California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS
Attention: SEP Certification Program
P.O. Box 997426, MS 7700
Sacramento, CA 95899-7426

or:

E-Mail:

SEPapplication@cdph.ca.gov

Additional information on SEP Certification can be found at:

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/CID/DOA/pages/OA_prev_sep.aspx

Category		Hourly Wage	Hours Monthly	Total Annual
A. Operating Expenses				
	Harm Reduction Supplies			\$20,000
	Transportation (Gas reimbursement)			\$5,000
	Food and water			
	Sharps Waste Disposal			\$5,000
	Insurance not clear if this is needed			
	Safe Sex materials			donations SCAP
	Service Equipment (Tarps, pop up covers, plates, cutlery, napkins)			donated GPCC church
	Printing- posters pamphlets fliers			\$2,000
B. Personnel Expenses	- 3 staff members 5 hours per week X 52 weeks at \$15 an hour.			11,700
	5 additional voluntyeer staff members			
	Program Coordinator		Vounteer at this time	
C. Other Costs	Auditor CPA			\$2,000
			Total	\$45,700

Category B

D. operating income

Inkind donations	\$20,000	
Syringe access grants	\$10,000	
Clearinghouse sponsorship	\$ to be determined	\$25,000 ?

Description of Services:

Harm Reduction Road Show is focused on public health outreach, emphasizing HIV and Hepatitis C prevention among high risk, underserved populations. We do this by providing specific support services to people practicing high risk behaviors. These services are all free, confidential and anonymous. All of our services are organized and will be provided by trained volunteers. While we currently have no paid staff and we have an offer from a local non profit to act as fiscal sponsor and allow us to seek donations and grant funding. (United Services Agency 501c3)

Our services will include:

- Mobile syringe exchange provides free, confidential, anonymous access to safe injecting supplies in a non judgmental harm reduction model. The supplies include: access to sterile syringes and other safe injecting supplies which are otherwise not widely available. Our success is built on trust and consistency in providing service. We arrive at specific locations on a predictable and regular basis.
- Syringe disposal is a free service for anyone with a syringe. Currently our county has only three anonymous kiosks, and several pharmacies participate in syringe disposal in part because of our robust Extended Producers Responsibility Ordinance. The purpose is to keep used syringes off the streets and out of trash cans where they can cause accidental sticks.
- We will provide free intranasal and/or injectable naloxone to distribute among the drug using community.
- We will provide fentanyl test strips to empower people who use drugs with information regarding their drug supply that will enable them to make decisions about safety while using (to not use alone, to make sure naloxone is available, to use a smaller amount and use more slowly, to inform their community that fentanyl may be present)
- Free condoms for any person: Unprotected sex is a high risk behavior which can be a concern.
- HIV testing to anyone: We will refer to agencies that provide free anonymous testing and we will invite Santa Cruz AIDS Project staff to join us in outreach to offer free testing.
- Referrals: we provide referrals to various social welfare programs, including but not limited to; food, shelter, clothes, health access, legal assistance, and substance use disorder treatment and MAT programs.
- We have volunteers that go out into the community and talk to people about our services and make other referrals. We will give out various supplies including, socks, soap shampoo, conditioner, razors, and literature to people who might otherwise not have access to these items.

Section VI

A. Syringe Dispensing Plan

The syringe transaction model will be a needs based/ negotiated distribution model. The client and volunteer will determine how many syringes will be distributed based on the number of individuals he or she is supporting with clean equipment, the number of times per day supplies are needed and the individual's ability to visit any of the syringe access mobile or fixed sites. (once a week, once a month , every two weeks etc.)

All clients are urged to return used syringes and dispose of them properly with us or the County Health Services Syringe Services Program utilizing sharps containers, kiosks or pharmacy drop offs. Clients are urged to reduce the risk of needle stick to others by not disposing in a garbage can or improperly leaving syringes in bathrooms or other areas where they may inject.

There will not be a limit on the number of syringes provided as the goal is to meet the U.S. Public Health Service recommendation of having a new sterile syringe for each injection.

We will provide safe injection supplies such as cookers, cotton, water, alcohol wipes, and tourniquets as recommended to prevent sharing and cross contamination, which can lead to disease transmission. Clients will be instructed on the need for proper disposal of the above supplies.

The number of syringes dispensed is a reporting requirement to the California Department of Public Health/Office of AIDS on a biannual basis.

B. Syringe collection and disposal plan

- A. All staff/volunteers are expected to follow the Sharps Waste Management Plan for the disposal of sharps and other potentially infectious material generated in the Syringe Exchange Program.
- B. All sharps are to be placed in a sharps container labeled with the word "Biohazard" and the international biohazard symbol.
- C. The sharps container will be a rigid puncture-resistant container which when sealed is leak resistant and cannot be reopened without great difficulty.
- D. During Syringe Access and Disposal Program transactions, sharps containers should be placed between the participant and staff/volunteers. Staff/volunteers should never hold the sharps container during an exchange; the container should

be placed on a secure table, and should be kept level at all times.

- E. Any injection equipment that falls outside of the sharps container should be retrieved by the participant and placed in the sharps container. If this is not possible, staff/volunteers should use tongs to retrieve the injection equipment.
- F. Sharps containers should never be filled beyond the manufacturer's fill line; the container should never be more than 75% full. Staff/volunteers should not insert their hands into the sharps container or forcibly push used injection equipment down into the container.
- G. All needles and syringes shall be kept and transported in puncture proof containers designed specifically for this purpose.

The Santa Cruz Public Health Agency has an existing contract with "Sharps Solutions" to dispose of sharps waste in a manner that is compliant with existing regulations. Depending on the amount collected, other contractors may be sought out to reduce the cost of proper disposal.

C. Service delivery plan

Fixed Site and Mobile. We have determined a need for mobile services in two locations in Santa Cruz and Felton. In addition, we will provide fixed site services at the Salvation Army day services center in Watsonville as well as one mobile site in Watsonville. The Harm Reduction Road Show recognizes that geographic, transportation, physical limitations in mobility, work schedules and other barriers exist to accessing Harm Reduction supplies.

Description of service locations:

1.Santa Cruz – area bounded by Coral Street and Harvey West Boulevard, northbound to Limekiln Street, and turning right on Coral Street to River Street. Sundays 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

2.Felton – area bounded by CA-9 and Plateau Drive north to Graham Hill Road, east on Covered Bridge South Road. Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

3.Watsonville – Salvation Army, 214 Union Street, Watsonville, CA 95076. Mondays 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

4. Watsonville – San Juan Road and Porter Road east to Salinas Road, south to Stender Avenue, north to San Juan Road. Mondays 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Staff and Volunteer Training

- a) The staff/volunteers complete core education on the Syringe Access and Disposal Program prior to providing services. Thus far we have 15 volunteers actively available to attend mobile outreach, some of whom have volunteered or worked at the County Syringe Service Program. We can hope to offer pay as we fundraise and grow. Volunteer burnout is something we want to prevent. We have a fiscal sponsor that has volunteered to let us work under their non profit. The United Services Association (Paul Lee and Herb Schmidt)

The basic topics included in the education are as follows:

1. Comprehensive education on the program standard operating procedures, Syringe Dispensing Plan, Syringe Collection and Sharps Waste Disposal Plan, and the Service Delivery Plan.
2. Overview of harm reduction as is incorporated into the program.
3. Participant education.
4. Referral process to medical, substance abuse treatment, mental health and other services as needed.
5. Cultural and linguistically appropriate service standards.
6. HIV and viral hepatitis transmission and prevention.
7. Overdose prevention and naloxone distribution.
8. Legal basis for the program.
9. Participant confidentiality protocols

Additional recommended training when available includes: polysubstance use, conflict resolution and de-escalation, specialized interviewing techniques such as motivational interviewing.

D. Data collection and program evaluation plan

We will record the number of clients, male, female, Latinx, African American, Caucasian, number of syringes received, number of syringes dispensed, number of naloxone kits given out. Data along with a description of program services and accomplishments will be reported on a biennial basis to the CDPH Office of AIDS and the Santa Cruz County Health Officer. In addition, we will participate in the annual survey and/or other data collection efforts conducted through CDPH/OA and the Syringe Services Supplies Clearinghouse.

E. Community relations plan

We are recording several interviews on Community TV with our Health Officer, Dr Arnold Leff. We have been invited to speak to Capitola Soquel Rotary Club on 2/28. We table at events such as the Opioid Symposium on March 1 at the Cocoon Grove in Santa Cruz . We have ongoing meetings with Santa Cruz Police Department and will reach out to the Watsonville Police Department. The Syringe Services Advisory Group meets occasionally and we have representation on this group. The Board of Supervisors mandates this advisory group. In preparation for this proposal we have met with County Health officer , the Director of County Health Services in addition to health department staff. We have a good relationship with the Mayors of each city and will meet with each individually.

We will record adverse and favorable incidents

We will record feedback from participants- we will collect data on how we are doing from program participants being mindful of ways we can improve or areas we need to make changes.

- Disposal lead-a member of each outreach group that will dispose of safely secured sharps.