

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: CONTRACEPTIVE ACCESS CHANGE PACKAGE

OVERVIEW

The Colorado Collaborative for Reproductive Health Equity (Collaborative), supported by the Colorado Health Foundation and Caring for Colorado Foundation, is excited to announce this Request for Proposals to respondents interested in serving as a clinical site for the ***Contraceptive Access Change Package***. This project aims to build upon the success of previous statewide efforts in Colorado to improve access to comprehensive contraceptive services. Colorado has become a national leader in this work, and this project will supply funding to a new cohort of clinics motivated to improve and enhance their ability to provide patient-centered, culturally responsive, comprehensive contraceptive counseling and services. The ***Contraceptive Access Change Package*** funding and program will run from January 2019 through December 2020.

[Informational Webinar](#): Thursday, August 23, 2018 at 2 pm

Applicant Registration Deadline: Friday, September 21, 2018 at 5 pm

Grant Submission Deadline: Friday, October 5, 2018 at 5 pm

Grant Award Amount: Up to \$120,000

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

While sexual and reproductive health needs are felt statewide, and by people of all ages and socio-economic standing, inequities continue to exist across groups and geographies. We recognize that these inequities stem from a variety of underlying issues including discrimination, stigma, harassment, violence, stressors related to poverty or immigration status, and access to culturally responsive resources.

The Colorado Collaborative for Reproductive Health Equity's vision is to ensure that all people have access to the information and services they need to manage their fertility and promote their sexual and reproductive health. The Collaborative's goal is to support Colorado women in accessing non-coercive, culturally responsive, person-centered reproductive health counseling and effective contraceptive methods.

We know that not everyone has the same opportunities to manage their reproductive health in Colorado. We are working to change this by directing our resources toward solutions that address the most pressing health needs in Colorado. Through this project, we are working to:

- Reduce contraceptive access barriers and health inequities based on the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and/or gender identity, age, disability, income, immigration status and geographic location.
- Ensure that all Coloradans can access high-quality, comprehensive, and affordable reproductive health care services as part of the primary care delivery system.
- Build health systems to produce long-term benefits and improve health outcomes for individuals and communities.

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A woman's ability to access the full range of contraceptive methods relies upon systems that support long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) – including insertion and removal of such methods – and providers who are trained to counsel and provide all contraceptive methods. Many clinics in Colorado recognize the importance and impact of reproductive health services and have not had the supports to implement changes and increase access for their patient populations.

Through the ***Contraceptive Access Change Package***, chosen clinics/systems will work with content expert, Liz Romer, DNP, FNP. Liz is a nurse practitioner that specializes in adolescent health. She focused her career on developing innovative programs that better meet the sexual reproductive health needs of all people. In 2009, she started the BC4U Program at Children's Hospital Colorado and serves as the director of this highly successful program that acts as a national model. She continues her work with BC4U part time while also serving as the Project Director.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is designed across two phases of work. We anticipate 12 clinics/systems will be awarded funding. Implementation funding (Phase Two) will be awarded to Phase One partners based on the review and approval of an implementation plan.

Phase One – Assessment and Planning: A four to six-month planning phase that includes an internal assessment of current practices and capacity, as well as identifying opportunities for change. Internal assessments will be conducted by clinics in partnership with a technical assistance partner (TAP) provided by the Collaborative. The TAP will be a nationally recognized firm with deep expertise in supporting safety net clinics in expanding access to reproductive health services.

The assessment/planning grants to clinics will be \$20,000. This funding will be used to support the time and effort of attending a learning session, conducting the internal assessment, and developing a report that outlines prioritized strategies for the implementation phase. The TAP will develop the assessment tool and provide support with a combination of on-site visits and virtual/phone meetings. The TAP will advise and support clinics in conducting interviews with staff and developing the implementation plan.

Phase Two – Implementation: A 12- to 16-month implementation phase where clinics will implement key actions determined during the planning phase to increase the clinic's capacity to provide comprehensive contraceptive care, including LARC. Implementation awards will be up to \$100,000; the size of awards will vary based on factors such as: scale of proposed strategies, number of patients served, agency priority and need for support. Funding during the second phase might be used to support operational or clinic flow changes, clinical training, EHR optimization, billing and coding improvements, device stocking, learning collaborative engagement, and/or salary support for participation in the project. Phase Two funds will be granted to projects that complete Phase One and present a solid plan and budget for implementation. The technical assistance partner will support clinics or systems through the implementation of Phase Two.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

Phase One - Assessment and Planning

- The Collaborative will provide a technical assistance partner (TAP) to provide ongoing support to each clinic partner throughout the assessment and implementation phases of work.
- The TAP will develop a tool and support clinics in conducting an assessment to evaluate the current state of clinic practice and workflow related to the delivery of contraceptive care.
- The assessment phase includes interviews of providers as well as clinical and administrative staff to inform the needs of clinics for the implementation phase.
- Clinics/systems will participate in at least one learning collaborative session in Spring 2019.
- During the planning period, clinical and administrative champions will be identified to lead the project to ensure both sides of the practice are working together toward success and sustainability.
- The planning phase will culminate in a comprehensive strategy and implementation plan, developed in partnership with the TAP. This plan will outline the strategy to increase the quality of contraceptive care in the clinic.
- A report detailing the implementation plan will be submitted to Caring for Colorado Foundation in June 2019 to secure implementation funding.

Phase Two - Implementation

- Clinic partners, with support from the TAP, will select and focus on several activities from the following areas:
 - Culturally responsive and patient-centered contraceptive counseling
 - Clinical training for device insertion and removal
 - Implementation of evidence-based clinical practices (including STI screening)
 - EHR enhancements to support contraceptive counseling and care
 - Contraception stocking, reimbursement, and billing practices
 - Operational or administrative workflow changes to better identify, counsel, prescribe and provide contraception
 - Capacity building of partnerships and referral network with reproductive health providers
- All projects will require a deepened commitment to prioritizing reproductive autonomy and support both insertion and removal of devices when requested

IDEAL CLINICAL PARTNERS

Preference will be given to applicants with the following characteristics:

- Community health centers, rural health clinics and/or hospitals, and other safety net clinics that identify a significant number of women of reproductive age without access to a full range of contraceptive services
- Clinics motivated to improve their delivery of contraceptive services and ready to implement changes
- Clinics with a current or growing commitment to reduce barriers and health inequities based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and/or gender identity, age, disability, income, immigration status, and geographic location.

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- Clinics demonstrating a commitment to provide culturally responsive and person-centered counseling and care, as well as championing more inclusive reproductive health practices in safety net clinics and among providers
- Clinics with administrative and clinical leadership support to improve contraceptive services.
- Commitment to participate in an ongoing learning collaborative to share lessons learned, local opportunities and barriers, and strategize around necessary mid-course corrections

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION:

We expect this project will spread the benefits and expertise of previous initiatives to increase contraceptive access and make access a priority in the care of women of reproductive age. Anticipated benefits include:

- Clinics will increase the number of providers trained and competent in comprehensive contraceptive counseling, as well as device insertion and removal.
- Clinics will increase the number of women receiving culturally responsive, comprehensive contraceptive counseling and timely services.
- Clinics will have documented improvements in the administrative structure and/or clinic flow to support same-day contraceptive services.
- Clinics will create systems to prioritize culturally responsive contraceptive counseling and services and make it easy for providers to deliver such services in one visit.
- Clinics will build processes to have contraceptive devices available to provide timely care.
- Clinics will have stronger quality measurement standards, aligned with the National Quality Family Planning standards, for reproductive health care.

TIMELINE

August 1, 2018	Application available
August 23, 2018	Register here for informational webinar, 2-3 PM MDT
September 21, 2018	Applicant registration deadline (5 PM MDT)
October 5, 2018	Application deadline (5 PM MDT)
Mid-October- November	Site visits of selected applicants
December 3, 2018	Award announcement
January 2019	Phase One: Assessment/planning begins
June 2019	Phase One: Wrap up and implementation plan due
July 2019	Phase Two: Implementation begins

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How to Apply

Applications must be submitted through Caring for Colorado's online grant application system. Instructions and access to the electronic application can be found on Caring for Colorado's website under the funding priorities category of [Reproductive Health](#).

In addition to basic organizational and financial documentation, applicants will need to submit a project narrative. Please download the project narrative template available at http://www.caringforcolorado.org/sites/default/files/contraceptive_access_proposal_narrative.docx.

No budget is required for the Phase One application.

Caring for Colorado will conduct site visits, in-person interviews or phone calls to ask clarifying questions regarding the applicant's grant submission. Slight revisions to the submission may be requested.

For inquiries about the proposal and submission, please contact Gillian Grant at ggrant@caringforcolorado.org or 303-414-6705.