

**California Department of Public Health  
Office of AIDS  
Expanded HIV Testing in Healthcare Settings  
Request for Application #14-10352  
Executive Summary**

**Santa Rosa Community Health Centers (SRCHC) Organizational Structure**

Santa Rosa Community Health Centers (SRCHC) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Sonoma County, CA. SRCHC serves a low-income, predominantly Latino population at nine service delivery sites, including two large primary care clinics, two school-based clinics, one full-time healthcare for the homeless clinic, three community-based part-time satellite clinics (located at a drug rehabilitation facility, emergency shelter, and community college), and a dental health center. In 2013, SRCHC served 41,041 unique patients, of which 22,060 (54%) self-identify as Hispanic. No patient is ever turned away due to inability to pay.

As an FQHC, SRCHC regularly bills Medicaid; Medicare; Family Planning, Access, Care, and Treatment (FPACT); Covered California insurance plans; and some private plans.

**Eligible Entity's Capability**

SRCHC is highly qualified to complete this Expanded HIV Testing in Healthcare Settings project because of our ability to target Latinos; utilize our billing systems to ensure fiscal and systemic sustainability; and link patients to care provided within SRCHC's system. We have a highly qualified and experienced program staff and a rich network of collaborative partnerships in the community. Most importantly, we're a financially stable organization with a strong history of launching new programs and opening new sites. SRCHC has a history of successfully providing routine opt-out testing to pregnant women and we will leverage this experience as we plan and develop our Expanded HIV Testing in Healthcare Settings project.

SRCHC has been serving the low-income Latino population since 1996 and we're very experienced at providing culturally and linguistically competent services to this population. As a recognized expert in serving this population effectively, SRCHC regularly receives referrals from local service providers in rural parts of the county for patients who need more culturally-appropriate care.

SRCHC also has extensive experience collaborating with other agencies to provide HIV prevention and care services. SRCHC participates in the Sonoma County HIV Service Providers Coalition, which brings diverse HIV care providers together to plan HIV interventions without duplication of services. Coalition members include West County Health Centers, Kaiser Permanente, Face to Face, Center Point DAAC, Food For Thought, Sonoma County Department of Health Services, AIDS Education and Training Center, Peers for Positive Change, Community Care HIV/AIDS Program, and consumers.

SRCHC has been successfully managing federal and state grant contracts since 2002, and we have a highly qualified and experienced HIV program staff. SRCHC's HIV program manager (admin/program) and finance manager (fiscal) each have more than three years of experience managing government grants. The Office of AIDS' CARE Program Advisor has called us a "model program" in each of the past three years and SRCHC successfully passed an audit from HRSA in October 2013 without a single finding.

## **Summary of SRCHC's Program**

SRCHC will begin opt-out routine testing among our predominantly Hispanic patient population by July 1, 2015. Our goal for SRCHC is build a culture of HIV screening so that every person who walks through our doors is offered an HIV test. SRCHC proposes to perform the following number of routine opt-out HIV tests:

- Year 1: 4,000
- Year 2: 10,000
- Year 3: 10,000

Approximately 25% of SRCHC's 40,000 patients are already screened for HIV and our goal is to complete an additional 24,000 tests over the three-year project period. Using the Sonoma County Department of Health Services (SCDOHS) cumulative incidence rate for Latinos of 0.17%, we estimate that performing routine HIV screening may yield up to 35 newly diagnosed Latinos in Sonoma County during the project period.

Providers and medical assistants (MAs) will be trained to offer HIV screening during any routine blood draw. MAs will be trained on the legal obligations of AB 446 and taught to check the practice alert in the health record to verify whether a patient has had an HIV test completed or refused an HIV test in the past 12 months. Standing orders and alerts in our electronic health records system will allow MAs to order an HIV test with the click of a button, and lab integration will be seamless. The MA will add the HIV test after counseling patients about the test, informing them about HIV treatment options, and advising them of their right to decline the test.

HIV screening will be performed in compliance with state law and in a method most appropriate to each individual SRCHC health center. Each health center will develop their own methodology in consultation with the HIV program manager to ensure a well-defined, legal, and compliant process. After the three-year project period, we will provide ongoing training, technical assistance, and performance feedback to clinical staff and expand testing protocols to include targeted testing based on clinical conditions.

Data for program evaluation will be collected in SRCHC's electronic health record for both positive and negative test results. Data from negative test results will be exported into an XML for upload to the CDC by OA. Positive test results will be entered into OA's Location Evaluation Online (LEO) system.

## **Seamlessly Integrating Our EE Program into Current Activities**

SRCHC's program will be seamlessly integrated into SRCHC current activities. SRCHC recently revised our HIV screening policy and standing orders are already in place at our largest health center (Vista) that allow MAs to legally order an HIV test without additional approval, and we will implement standing orders at our other eight service delivery sites as well. SRCHC will modify our electronic health record (EHR) to better incorporate HIV screening. Any lab ordered and performed at Quest Diagnostics is seamlessly interfaced into SRCHC's EHR, and tests performed at other laboratories will be manually entered into the EHR following SRCHC's non-interfaced labs protocol. Linkage to care and partner services will be tracked by the HIV care team through the action feature of the EHR, which allows staff to set a reminder to follow up patients needing future care.