

RFP: Community Public Health Vending Machines

Questions & Answers

RFP Details:

Link to RFP: <https://www.vermontbusinessregistry.com/BidPreview.aspx?BidID=61131>

Bidders Conference: May 6, 2024, 3:00 am – 4:00 PM EST Remote via Microsoft Teams

Questions: All questions must be submitted in writing to danielle.tucker@vermont.gov by May 13, 2024, 11:59 PM EST

Letter of Intent Due (optional): May 13, 2024

Deadline extension: Proposals and all material are due by Monday, June 17th, 2024 by 11:59PM.

Question: Is the supplier responsible for stocking the vending machines with the product? If so, I would assume the supplier is also responsible for sourcing the supplies?

Answer: If the suppliers is seeking free naloxone, per the RFP (page 2) the grantee be need to enroll in the Opioid Overdose Prevention Naloxone Distribution Program. Per the RFP (page 6) the grantee would develop an procurement plan for supplies, and provide a sustainability plan to ensure ongoing programmatic work.

Question: Can non-SSPs now include syringes in the supplies being offered through these machines?

Answer: Currently in accordance with the Syringe exchange programs (SEP's) operating guidelines and related laws [18 V.S.A. § 4475](#) and [Organized Community-based Needle Exchange Programs \(healthvermont.gov\)](#) Operating Guidelines, only Syringe Exchange Programs (SEP's) can provide syringe services. Applicants should include the results of any needs assessment if available (including proposed items desired to be included in the machine). As listed in the RFP (Scope of Work Community Needs Assessment & Section 3.9), the grantee and Health Department will work closely in finalizing an approved list of supplies.

Question: Are those who are not EMT leaders able to apply?

Answer: Yes, Applicant Eligibility is listed on the RFP on page 2.

Organizations must meet the following requirements to be eligible for these funds:

- Physically located and/or operating in the state of Vermont.
- Experience providing direct services to people who use drugs (PWUD) or partner with an organization provides direct services to people who use drugs.
- Have a demonstrated history of conducting community outreach to support new initiatives.
- All proposed vending machines must be placed within the state of Vermont.
- All vending machines must be stocked with, at a minimum, naloxone (opioid antagonist). Other wellness or harm reduction supplies may be provided with prior approval from VDH.
- Priority consideration will be given to Vermont Department of Health recognized syringe service providers or other harm reduction- focused organizations already providing direct services to people who use drugs

Question: Who should the lead applicant be for the proposals?

Answer: The applicant's eligibility is listed on page 2 of the RFP, the applying organization is to be responsible for the operation of the program including distributing, data collection and program planning, implementation, and management, etc. A selected applicant would be responsible for meeting all grant agreement deliverables.