



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333

March 24, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your interest in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) CDC-RFA-PS20-2009: Integrating Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Prevention Funding for Health Departments.

It was our goal to create a funding opportunity that allows recipients to comprehensively tackle viral hepatitis through response, surveillance, and prevention, while having the flexibility to run special projects on the infectious disease consequences of drug use. However, we have heard your concerns regarding the significant strain on staff by the COVID-19 national emergency, and how that is negatively impacting health department capacity to prepare a quality submission for PS20-2009. In acknowledgement of these extraordinary circumstances and resulting strain on our partners, CDC staff have been exploring various options to address these concerns.

To maintain an award date within this fiscal year, the deadline could only be pushed one week further – an insufficient extension in these difficult times. Similarly, revising the program announcement to simplify the application process would take so long, it too would be impractical. Therefore, we made the tough, but necessary, decision to cancel the current NOFO announcement. CDC will issue a viral hepatitis funding opportunity for FY2021.

CDC is committed to maintaining existing viral hepatitis prevention and surveillance funding until the new award begins. As a result, CDC is working to quickly prepare continuation guidance for PS17-1702, PS17-1702-Supplement, and PS17-1703 programs.

CDC appreciates the feedback from its partners and jurisdictional colleagues and continues to value the open and frank communication. We apologize for this change and appreciate your patience during this complicated time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carolyn Wester".

Carolyn Wester, MD, MPH  
Director, Division of Viral Hepatitis