



HIV Peer Workforce Innovator Project

Background:

The NYS AIDS Institute has initiated a statewide HIV Peer Certification Program, which includes training and practical work experience components, to meet the requirements for future Medicaid reimbursement. The first cadre of peers will be certified by late summer 2016. Peers working as part of a care team, to support early access to and retention in HIV care are a tremendously underutilized asset in ending the HIV epidemic. Peers add value to traditional health care services by:

- Improving relationships between consumers and their primary/behavioral health care providers;
- Enhancing viral load suppression, prevention and chronic disease management; and
- Reducing use of expensive inpatient services by connecting people to primary/outpatient care.

HIV Peer Workforce Innovator Project:

To support the implementation of HIV peers in the workforce, the HIV Peer Workforce Innovator Project will implement the following activities:

- **Job Placement:** drive the hiring of peer graduates by community providers by offering first year incentives of 50% matching salary costs;
- **Provider Support:** ready the community-based system to integrate a certified peer workforce;
- **Data & Evaluation:** document the impact of peer services: cost savings from reduced hospital and long-term care services; propel the case for Medicaid reimbursement and private foundation support.

Amida Care will work with DSRIP Program Performing Provider Systems implementing HIV projects to identify pilot agencies in New York City. Priority will be given to agencies in Amida Care’s member network to facilitate data collection. Scope and budget details are as follows:

Borough	# of Peers	Clients per Peer	Clients Served per Borough	Budget Item	Program Costs	Economic Benefit
Bronx	4	15	60	Peer Stipends	\$225,000	
Brooklyn	4		60	Program Implementation	\$75,000	
Manhattan	3		45	Total Initiative	\$300,000	\$525,000
Queens	3		45			
Staten Island	1		15			
Total	15		225			

Benefit to the NYC Community

By utilizing HIV peers, the NYC community will realize several social and economic benefits including: increasing the number of Medicaid reimbursable health services to agencies serving NYC residents, improving the health of residents not currently receiving health care services, reducing the number of new HIV infections, and providing livable wage jobs for community members while also allowing them to maintain their benefits and health care coverage.

About Amida Care

Amida Care is a not-for-profit health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with chronic conditions, including HIV and behavioral health disorders, as well as those experiencing homelessness. We serve over 6,000 Medicaid and Medicare members throughout New York City. Established in 2003 by several non-profit community-based health organizations, Amida Care developed a highly effective, specialized model of care to provide individualized attention and support to people living with HIV/AIDS and other complex health issues.