

Grant Opportunities for Syringe Exchange Programs

As of July 1, 2017, [local funds may be used](#) to purchase syringes, needles and other injection supplies. Programs are may not use state funds for these supplies. All public funds may be used for other program development and operation costs (rent, salaries and stipends, testing resources, naloxone training and distribution, etc.).

The **North American Syringe Exchange Network (NASEN)** provides information, limited loans and grant funding and technical support to new and existing syringe exchange programs. NASEN also runs a cooperative syringe purchasing program, the Buyers Club, to negotiate between manufacturers, wholesale providers and exchanges. Prior to ordering supplies through NASEN, all programs must complete and submit the NASEN Directory Questionnaire. For more information about NASEN's programs, including the Buyers Club, contact them through nasen.org.

The **Comer Family Foundation** has provided support to non-profit projects that focus on harm reduction and syringe exchange since 1992. Grant applications are accepted May 1 and November 1 of each calendar year. Average single-year grant awards range from \$5,000-30,000. Additional grant details, application and eligibility requirements can be found at comerfamilyfoundation.org/syringe-access-program.

The **MAC AIDS Fund** offers grants to organizations working with people living with HIV, focusing on the areas of food and nutrition and housing programs. The organization has funded harm reduction and syringe access projects in the past. Interested applicants should contact the Fund for more information: macaidsfund.org/#main-content.

The **Elton John Foundation** offers grants in a variety of areas related to healthcare access, HIV prevention, and HIV care, including harm reduction programming. The organization provides funding to both harm reduction and syringe access policy work and to direct services. The Elton John Foundation also provides annual support to the Syringe Access Fund. First-time funding applicants can complete and submit an online letter of inquiry form: newyork.ejaf.org/.

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS provide funding for local and national AIDS service organizations (including harm reduction programs), food access programs, supplemental and emergency grants and community service/health projects by arts organizations. A number of North Carolina-based organizations have received funding from Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Please visit broadwaycares.org/national-grants/ for more information and to monitor eligibility for future grant-making cycles.

The AIDS United **Syringe Access Fund** is a national grant-making collaborative that supports service providers and policy projects working to increase access to sterile injection equipment and to ensure their safe disposal. Find more information about the programs they support and grant eligibility at aidsunited.org/Programs-0024-Grantmaking/Syringe-Access-Fund.aspx.

North Carolina exchanges may also receive support from local foundations and partner agencies. The Division of Public Health has and will continue to notify programs when state-level funding opportunities are available. Email SyringeExchangeNC@dhhs.nc.gov to be added to Injury and Violence Prevention Branch contact lists.

Many syringe exchange and harm reduction programs rely on private donations, fundraising, and crowdsourcing efforts to supplement limited public and grant funding. Though not recommended, some programs allow participants to leave donations when visiting exchanges. Donations must be based entirely on the participant's discretion, and financial contribution should never be a condition or requirement when visiting an exchange. Exchanges and programs should decide for themselves how to broach the issue of accepting donations from participants based on funding sources, relationships with participants, and the ability to offer services.