

## **Emergency Department Buprenorphine Implementation Support for the Carolinas REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

CaroNova, a nonprofit health innovation incubator for the Carolinas, is issuing this request for applications to identify hospital emergency departments (EDs) in North and South Carolina interested in implementing buprenorphine treatment in the ED to treat patients experiencing opioid use disorder or withdrawal. Selected sites will receive targeted implementation coaching and training from Bridge, a program of the Public Health Institute, whose experts have supported over 275 hospitals in the last four years to implement medication for addiction treatment in the ED.

The selected EDs will strive to achieve the following:

- A new or enhanced program that is using buprenorphine to treat patients experiencing opioid use disorder (OUD) or withdrawal
- A referral relationship with ongoing treatment providers for patients started on MOUD in the ED or hospital
- A plan to support culture change that may include signs inviting patient self-disclosure or desire for MOUD information or treatment
- A team that continues to build and advocate for the program
- A pathway for continuation and enhancement of site-level MOUD

By the culmination of this work, selected EDs will also have access to a supportive network of ED champions throughout North and South Carolina that have similarly engaged in these efforts and connection to a national network of ED MOUD providers.

### **Background**

Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), such as buprenorphine, have been identified as the gold standard for evidence-based treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD) due to their ability to temper the withdrawal symptoms that make it difficult for people with OUD to stop using opioids, and to help protect against overdose. [Studies show](#) that ED-based initiation of buprenorphine increases engagement in outpatient treatment and reduces the risk of subsequent opioid overdose. This is an opportunity for North and South Carolina hospitals to receive support with expanding access to this treatment for their ED patients.

### **Eligibility**

#### Eligibility:

- To be eligible, applicants must be a hospital emergency department located in North or South Carolina.

### Selection:

The following factors will be considered in site selection.

- Preference will be given to small rural hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals.
- Preference will be given to hospitals that do not already have an ED-buprenorphine program, however hospitals interested in enhancing their existing program are also welcome to apply and will be considered.
- Preference will be given to sites that demonstrate readiness in their application. Clinical leadership and practicing providers at the site ideally will have the following in place prior to the commencement of activities: a lead champion, administrative support of on-site MAT, buprenorphine on formulary, and a list of considerations for post-ED referral.

Expected # of sites: Up to 10

Funding amount: In addition to receiving training and implementation assistance from experts, selected sites will be eligible to receive a one-time \$10,000 stipend for participation.

### **Activities**

The selected sites' project champions and their colleagues will participate in an intensive series of trainings and implementation assistance led by the Bridge national team to learn how to implement an ED-buprenorphine program and address site-level barriers. The Bridge team will provide:

- Initial onboarding call
- Guidance and analysis of baseline hospital self-assessment
- Four, 2-hour online/synchronous trainings designed specifically for ED MOUD in the Carolinas, with focus on the following areas:
  - The Foundations of ED MOUD
  - Buprenorphine starts in the ED
  - Building a team for sustainability
  - Harm reduction in the ED
- Collaboration with local clinical subject matter experts (SMEs) on leadership capacity building with a focus on vulnerable populations
- One in-person site visit to each participating ED to support implementation fidelity
- Three one-hour individualized TA calls with each participating ED
- One-hour meeting with referral providers or other stakeholders
- Engagement tools for stigma reduction

Selected sites will sign a Participation Agreement to indicate their commitment to participating in these activities as well as to providing requested information at the end of the project to assess outcomes.

## Anticipated Timeline

- Application deadline: November 22, 2023
- Expected award date: December 13, 2023
- Onboarding: December 2023 – January 2024
- Training and implementation support: January 2024 – May 2024
- Reporting: June 2024

## Tentative Training and Technical Assistance Schedule

<b>Trainings</b> All sites in each cohort participate synchronously in each online training.	<b>Individualized Technical Assistance Calls (Cohort 1)*</b> All sites will select one time slot per TA Call for a total of three calls.
<b>Training 1: Monday 1/22/2024</b> 12:00pm-1:00pm ET	<b>TA Call 1: Monday 1/29/2024</b> Site 1: 11:00am ET Site 2: 12:00pm ET Site 3: 1:00pm ET Site 4: 2:00pm ET Site 5: 3:00pm ET
<b>Training 2: Monday 02/05/2024</b> 12:00pm-1:00pm ET	<b>TA Call 2: Monday 02/12/2024</b> Site 1: 11:00am ET Site 2: 12:00pm ET Site 3: 1:00pm ET Site 4: 2:00pm ET Site 5: 3:00pm ET
<b>Training 3: Monday 02/19/2024</b> 12:00pm-1:00pm ET	<b>TA Call 3: Monday 02/26/2024</b> Site 1: 11:00am ET Site 2: 12:00pm ET Site 3: 1:00pm ET Site 4: 2:00pm ET Site 5: 3:00pm ET
<b>Training 4: Monday 03/04/2024</b> 12:00pm-1:00pm ET	<b>Site Visit</b> All sites will determine site visit dates based on site availability during early TA Calls. Tentatively 3/11/2024 - 3/15/2024

*\*There will be two cohorts of up to 5 sites each. The technical assistance call options in this table are for Cohort 1. Cohort 2 will occur concurrently and will follow a similar schedule on Tuesdays.*



## Application

To apply, please complete the following application by 5:00pm ET on Wednesday, November 22, 2023. Any questions related to this application can be directed to Tevin Jenkins, [tjenkins@ncha.org](mailto:tjenkins@ncha.org).

**Application form:** <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/531cdc4d5f27442cb4e537d9612176ea>

## More Information

More information about CaroNova can be found [here](#).

More information about Bridge can be found [here](#).