**Key Facts for HIV in MA:**

- Between 2016 and 2018, an outbreak of HIV occurred in the Merrimack Valley; the majority of these cases were among people who inject drugs (PWID) who were also experiencing homelessness.
- Between December 2018 and December 2019, 25 cases have been linked to an outbreak in Boston.

**Key Facts for Hepatitis C (HCV):**

- In Massachusetts, HCV Cases have remained high, with 8,000 to 9,000 cases reported each year.
- In 2016, 2,408 cases were reported between the ages of 15 and 29.
- Of all of the individuals in MA living with HIV, 17% have also been infected by HCV.

**Key Facts for Opioid Use:**

- In the first nine months of 2019, there were 1,091 confirmed opioid related overdose deaths in MA. The Department of Public Health estimates that there was an additional 337 to 402 deaths in the last three months of 2019.
- As of January 1st, 2020, 52 people were diagnosed with HIV who had injected drugs within the last year.

**What Does the HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis C Line Item Pay For?**

- Services for people living with HIV/AIDS like Health Navigation and Housing Support Services.
- Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) and holistic harm reduction drug user health programs.
- Testing for HIV, Hepatitis C, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- Linkage to care and navigation to treatment.

Demand for these services has only grown and expanded in the past four years leaving organizations to provide more services to a growing number of people.

**What an Increase of $2 M Can Do:**

- **Expand Use of Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)**
  - PrEP is a daily prescription medication that reduces sexually transmitted HIV infection by over 90%.
  - Funding is needed for initiatives to expand the use of PrEP in at-risk populations and reduce new HIV infections.
  - For every one person on PrEP there are 6.29 people at risk who are not.

- **Strengthen the HIV/AIDS/HCV Workforce**
  - Programs must be able to hire/retain critical clinical and outreach staff to be effective.
  - The current network of SSPs provides a unique opportunity to increase harm reduction efforts directed at people who inject drugs (PWID).

- **Link Inmates in County Jails with HIV/AIDS/HCV Services**
  - New HIV and HCV infections are on the rise among inmates in county jails.
  - HIV/AIDS/HCV coordinators are needed to link inmates in the county jail system to testing and treatment services.

**Sources:**

- [http://aidsvu.org](http://aidsvu.org)

Please support $32.8 M for HIV/AIDS/HCV Line Item (DPH 4512-0103) *Getting To Zero in MA is possible!*

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