



For Immediate Release: February 12, 2018

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Phoenix, AZ -- Sonoran Prevention Works receives two-year grant from AIDS United's Syringe Access Fund.

Sonoran Prevention Works (SPW) is pleased to announce that it was chosen as one of 62 grant recipients nationwide to continue its work to prevent HIV, viral hepatitis, and overdose for people who inject drugs. This grant will support SPW's advocacy work to promote the decriminalization of syringe access programs, a desperately needed solution to high rates of death, illness, and suffering among people who inject drugs.

SPW is an effective community engager and influencer in the deep trenches of advocacy, working to improve the health of people who are marginalized by drug use, criminalization, and mental illness. The organization operates Arizona's largest overdose prevention program offering free education and resources to behavioral health agencies, hospitals, law enforcement, family members, and people who are at risk for overdose. In 2017, it distributed 56,952 doses of the overdose reversal drug naloxone, and received reports of 2,450 lives saved.

AIDS United's Syringe Access Fund recognizes the rapid rise in injection-drug use associated with the current opioid crisis, including rising hepatitis C (HCV) and HIV infections, particularly among young adults. Sonoran Prevention Works is committed to addressing the realities of substance use by implementing harm reduction strategies that center on proven, cost-effective approaches. This advocacy will work toward the prevention of transmission of HIV and viral hepatitis among people who inject drugs, reduction of accidental needle sticks for police and the general public, and engagement of people who inject drugs in accessing critical and life-saving resources.