

UPHNS HUB Video Call Minutes November 24, 2020

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Topic:

Health Canada Presentation on UPHNS Application Process

Presenters:

Julia Redfern (along with Kim Barber and Shannon Doorn)

- Process of applying can change
- The goal of this meeting is to provide clarity difference between SCS and UPHNS, and how to go about applying
- Pro tip:
 - ⇒ Can first set up UPHNS, and once up and running, apply to SCS at the time
 - ⇒ This process is technically permitted o When opening UPHNS, look at SCS policies/procedures so you don't have to make that as many changes when switching over to SCS
 - ⇒ If you would like a copy of the presentation, please reach out to the UPHNS HUB team

Questions:

Can you unpack what is meant by providing "Evidence of an urgent health need" please?

- The more specific to location the better.
- Neighbourhood and/or regional based data if possible, but we are aware that not all places will be able to get this, so you can reference other locations and explain how your area is similar
- Examples of useful data to inform urgent health need: Estimates of the number of people of use drugs (overdose rates, overdose death rates), emergency department visits related to overdoses
- State where the data comes from. The more recent, the better

How is HC supporting communities located in provinces with hostile governments?

- Can only speak to exemptions piece
- If organization wants to open a site but can't do it under province/territory (PT), it can always apply to site-specific exemption with HC

⇒ Site can be funded solely by private donations

What happens to sites that have been set up after Sept 30, 2021?

- The current class exemption for UPHNS has been extended to Sept 30, 2021, so provinces can take advantage until then to set up UPHNS without the need for applying to HC
- Following this date the process will be to apply to HC through the means mentioned in this presentation

Is a full application required when applying for provisional location while looking for permanent UPHNS?

- Two ways: If temporary location available sooner, can apply for UPHNS while preparing the SCS at a more permanent location
 - ⇒ OR interim vs permanent site. Both SCS exemptions. Can apply for interim SCS while permanent site is undergoing renovations, etc. However, the permanent site must be approved at the same time

How do we ensure vulnerable people are at table when it comes to UPHNS?

- In terms of the development of policies, people can reach out to appropriate gov office (the regulatory part of Health Canada)
- In terms of applying for exemption, neither the SCS or UPHNS applications have requirements for gender or race and that information is not asked for
 - ⇒ Up to staff members of organizations who they have as staff (e.g. peers, BIPOC, etc.)
 - ⇒ The “Responsible person in charge” goes through a criminal record check; however, this is not required for anyone else