



# Engaging Your Local Hepatitis Coordinator

- 1. Find out who they are.** There is a Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator and a Perinatal Hepatitis B Coordinator in almost every state (and some cities!). Find out which Coordinators serve your area:
  - VHPC Directory: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Partners/VHPC.htm>
  - PHBC Directory: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Partners/PeriHepBCoord.htm>
- 2. Have information ready.** It is always helpful to show the impact of viral hepatitis in your community so the coordinators can best understand how to meet your needs. Some ideas...
  - Offer to share **useful data**:
    - How many foreign-born AAPI, Africans, and other impacted communities are in your region? (U.S. Census: American Community Survey)
    - What is the rate of liver cancer in your region? (American Cancer Society)
    - What is the rate of transplant in your region? ([www.unos.org](http://www.unos.org))
    - What is the prevalence of hepatitis B within your program? Within your area?
  - Play up your **community connections** – your existing relationships can be a huge asset:
    - Who are your coalition partners? How do you engage with local stakeholders?
    - What communities do you reach? How many does your program serve?
  - Share your **resources**:
    - What are current testing, care and treatment resources available to your community?
    - What resources does your organization have that the coordinator may not have? Help to build a partnership by letting your coordinator know what unique resources you have.
- 3. Know what you want.** Think about what collaborative opportunities you can have with the coordinator. Simple and achievable “asks” are great starts. Consider how you can help them and how they can help you. Some examples include:
  - Ask coordinators to join your coalition.
  - Ask them to support your efforts as a partner (even nominally).
    - Have a HBU mailing list? Ask if you can add them!
    - Hosting events? Invite them or ask them to forward info to their network!
    - Planning a training/webinar? Ask them to share their expertise!
    - Disseminating resources? Ask them to help you!
  - Ask them what their current priorities are, and how you can fit in.
    - Do they have a mailing list? Sign up for it.
    - Do they host trainings/events? Attend and introduce yourself.
    - Know of great educational materials? Forward them along!
    - Working with perinatal hepatitis B coordinators? Collaborate on perinatal hepatitis B priorities.

- 4. Be persistent.** The first attempt may not be successful. Continue to share information and updates with the coordinators so that they will remember you for future opportunities. It's all about relationship building!

*Want more input? Ask one of us! We've loved working with our local Hep B United partners and are happy to help other chapters strategize ways to build that relationship in your region.*

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