

Hepatitis Free Northern New England (Hep Free NNE)

2025-2030

Viral Hepatitis B and C Elimination Plan
Overview



The 'why'

The opioid crisis has contributed to an increase in hepatitis B and C infections across the U.S.

CDC estimates 40% of people living with chronic hepatitis C cases are unaware of their status, and only one-third of diagnosed patients cured in the last decade.

Proven treatments and harm-reduction strategies exist but require coordinated implementation.



A collaborative approach



Hep Free NNE is a tri-state collaborative of multi-sectoral partners which has existed in some form since 2021. Early partnership work began in 2021 with a goal of developing a regional plan to eliminate viral hepatitis across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.



Partnership and planning activities supported by CDC funds through the NH Department of Health and Human Services.



Shepherded by three state co-chairs from ME, NH, and VT; guided by a steering committee, and moved forward by a large planning group.



Our ideals

Mission: To free Northern New England from viral hepatitis B and C.


Vision: Northern New England is a place where new hepatitis B and C infections are prevented, every person knows their status, and every person with viral hepatitis has high-quality health care and treatment free from stigma and discrimination.



Co-created by community

The Hep Free NNE 2025-2030 Viral Hepatitis B and C Elimination Plan sets a course to eliminate hepatitis B and C across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. It emphasizes community-driven strategies, aligning with local needs and resources.

This Plan was fueled by contributions from over 200 co-creators and stakeholders and is aligned with the National Strategy for Viral Hepatitis and federal implementation plan.



100+ interviews with people who have lived experience with using drugs or viral hepatitis

10 community discussion groups

34 stakeholder interviews

150+ kick-off Summit attendees

40+ Planning Group members

The audience

Any organization, coalition, clinical practice, or community-based group that supports individuals living with or who are at higher risk for viral hepatitis.

Policymakers involved in developing legislative, administrative, or regulatory measures that impact the viral hepatitis cascade of care (care cascade).



The plan's utility



An advocacy tool to showcase the extensive work that must be resourced to achieve this goal.



A planning guide for partners seeking actionable ideas on how they can contribute to this collective effort.



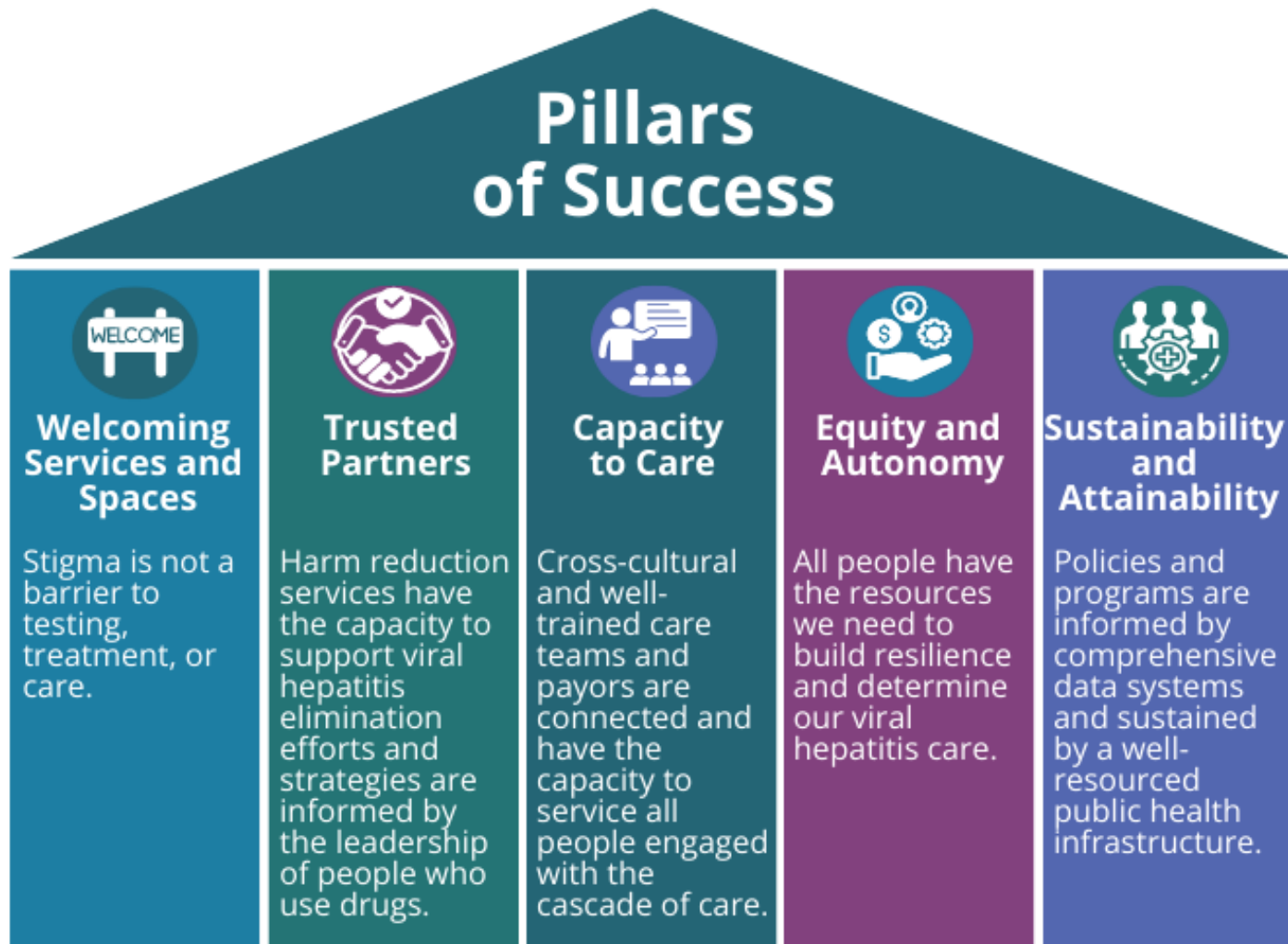
A source of inspiration for meaningful contributions to the elimination of viral hepatitis.

This is NOT a one-size-fits-all workplan for partners wanting to help eliminate viral hepatitis. It recognizes the diverse needs and approaches of different stakeholders and aims to provide flexibility rather than dictate a single method of action.



Pillars and goals

The Plan's strategy is structured into five pillars each with an actionable goal:



Welcoming services and spaces



We aim to achieve a variety of outcomes and remove stigma as a barrier to care.



Trusted Partners



We aim to achieve a variety of outcomes that support robust harm reduction programs that are reflective of the individuals they support.



Capacity to care



We aim to achieve a variety of outcomes to ensure a well-trained workforce provides care within an agile system.



Equity and autonomy



We aim to achieve a variety of outcomes and ensure any one of us has the resiliency to determine our own viral hepatitis care path.



Sustainability and attainability



We aim to achieve a variety of outcomes and support the infrastructure and data systems required to end viral hepatitis.



Collective action

With these approaches:

☐ **Micro-Elimination:**
Centers localized strategies adapted to specific priority populations. This tailored model is designed to deliver faster, more impactful results while inspiring broader change.

☐ **Collaborative Planning:**
Involves multi-sector partners, ensuring inclusivity, community input, and alignment with public health priorities.

Together we can achieve:

- ☐ Increased testing and treatment access across diverse settings.
- ☐ Normalized conversations about hepatitis to reduce stigma.
- ☐ Integrated care within broader health and social systems like housing and substance use programs.
- ☐ Strengthened public health infrastructure with innovative funding and advocacy.

You're probably already doing the work

Regardless of the size or resources of organization, there is an opportunity to be part of this work - even if it is just focusing on implementing a single best practice within your organization.



Invite a Hep Free NNE Steering Committee member to present the Plan to your team and other partners from your care cascade.



Review the Plan with your team to identify points of existing overlap and opportunities to explore new strategies your organization or expand upon the work you're already doing.



Consider the Plan activities designated as "Quick Starts" or "Big Wins" to identify ways to strengthen or build new partnerships within your care cascade.



Moving forward

- ✓ Plan was officially launched in January 2025; convening funding ended.
- ✓ Organizations involved with the planning are currently assessing their opportunities to take action.
- ✓ Hep Free NNE Steering Committee will continue to meet to explore its future role
- ✓ Partners can stay connected and get important updates related to the Plan's implementation by joining this email list:

