



July 27, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Yesterday, CDC awarded a total of \$11.1 million to 19 communities to scale up quality HIV prevention services in STD clinics. This award was made through Component C of the funding opportunity [PS20-2010: Integrated HIV Programs for Health Departments to Support Ending the HIV Epidemic in the United States](#) as it enters its second year. It is a part of the nation's ongoing federal [Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. \(EHE\) initiative](#).

The EHE initiative infuses priority jurisdictions with additional resources, technology, and expertise to expand HIV prevention and treatment activities. The work in STD clinics is one part of the total \$117 million PS20-2010 award going to 32 state and local health departments representing the 57 jurisdictions across the United States prioritized in EHE.

STD clinics play a critical role in HIV diagnosis, prevention, linkage to care, and treatment. CDC recognizes the importance of this role and will be funding for the second year of Component C 12 new recipients this year in addition to the seven original recipients.

Despite unrelenting demands placed on health departments during the pandemic, the first year of Component C generated no shortage of accomplishments by the original seven recipients. Funded clinics conducted a baseline [assessment](#) of STD and HIV services outlined in the [Recommendations for Providing Quality Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinical Services, 2020](#). The assessment found that nearly all funded clinics have laboratory capacity and the ability to provide pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) by prescription, provide extragenital STD and fourth-generation HIV testing, assess for PrEP eligibility, and provide PrEP patient education. Additional examples of progress by the participating Component C clinics include:

- Establishing telePrEP as an option for PrEP patients.
- Contacting PrEP patients lost to follow up to reengage in care and better understand barriers to care.
- Implementing express clinics to increase clinic flow and the number of patients served.
- Linking patients to care more rapidly by streamlining systems to share patient information in electronic medical records between the clinics and local HIV providers.

Moving into the second year of Component C, recipients will again focus on five strategies to scale up HIV prevention services to reach populations that seek and receive care in participating clinics:

1. Assess or re-assess clinic infrastructure to document HIV prevention services, identify gaps, and assess service quality.
2. Implement evidence-based approaches to scale up HIV prevention capacity in clinics, including self-collected STD testing, express visits, HIV testing and viral load assessment.



3. Expand the capacity of clinics to offer PrEP and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and strengthen clinic and laboratory capacity for recommended follow-up visits for people on PrEP.
4. Optimize linkage to, retention in, and re-engagement with HIV medical care.
5. Facilitate partnerships with other community HIV clinical providers, health departments, and community-based organizations that provide HIV prevention services and collaborate with them to implement EHE.

CDC looks forward to working with the [funded health departments](#) and their participating STD clinics in our continued efforts to end HIV in the U.S.

In addition, with support from the HHS Minority HIV/AIDS Fund (MHAF), in August 2020, CDC awarded \$4 million to supplement the National Network of Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinical Prevention Training Centers (NNPTC). Eight prevention training centers and two national centers received funds to bolster training and technical assistance efforts so STD clinics in EHE jurisdictions that serve a high proportion of racial, ethnic, sexual and gender minority populations can better provide HIV prevention services. We anticipate the second year of supplemental funds will be awarded soon.

More information on *Integrated HIV Program for Health Departments to Support Ending the HIV Epidemic in the United States: Component C* is available on [CDC's website](#). Questions about the STD EHE work may be directed to Diane Ballard, IQU0@cdc.gov.

As always, thank you for your unwavering dedication to STD and HIV prevention. We look forward to identifying and sharing best practices that emerge from the second year of Component C.

Sincerely,

Raul Romaguera, DMD, MPH
Acting Director
Division of STD Prevention
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/std

Demetre Daskalakis, MD, MPH
Director
Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/hiv