

ACCELERATING HIV IMPROVEMENTS IN PREVENTION & CARE - FISCAL YEAR 2020

Investment in these programs and services will reduce new HIV cases

AIDS
FOUNDATION
OF CHICAGO

Illinois must invest and spend \$26.5 million (a \$1M increase) in HIV services and \$2.4 million (a \$1M increase) in targeted HIV programs for communities of color.

We can virtually eliminate HIV transmission with linkage to HIV medications and medical care.

Research demonstrates that connecting people to HIV treatment is critical to preventing new HIV cases in the community. This is known as **Undetectable = Untransmittable** or **U=U**, meaning that an HIV-positive individual with linkage to HIV medications and care who achieves viral suppression **cannot** transmit HIV sexually to their HIV-negative partners. **In Illinois, we are working to end the HIV epidemic and Get to Zero. To reach that goal, we must adequately fund HIV services and programs.**

HIV remains a significant public health issue in Illinois.

- There are an estimated **45,000** (including undiagnosed) people living with HIV in Illinois.
- In 2017, an estimated **1,375** Illinoisans were diagnosed with HIV, **752** of whom lived in Chicago.
- Of new HIV cases, nearly **75%** are within the African-American and Latinx community, **30%** are among young people aged 20-29.
- **1 in 2** gay Black men will become HIV-positive by age 40, if trends continue.

Unfortunately, 30% of people diagnosed with HIV were not engaged in health care during the previous 12 months, and about 50% are not virally suppressed.

Getting to Zero Illinois – Ending the HIV Epidemic by 2030

Illinois has a plan to change the course of the epidemic called “Getting to Zero Illinois.” The framework is endorsed by the governor’s office, the Illinois Department of Public Health, providers, funders and other key stakeholders. It outlines a path toward a day when there are no new HIV transmissions in Illinois.



Getting to Zero has two major components:

- Increasing by 20% the use of PrEP, a daily HIV medication that is nearly 100% effective when taken consistently and correctly, and
- Increasing by 20% the number of people who are virally suppressed, meaning they cannot transmit HIV sexually to their partners.

Illinois must continue to invest in HIV treatment programs, which also prevent new HIV cases. Every new HIV case prevented saves the state nearly \$466,000 per person in lifetime medical costs.

The state must increase investment in biomedical interventions like pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), a daily prevention pill that is nearly 100% effective when taken consistently and correctly.

With critical investments by the state, we can achieve an AIDS-free generation.

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