

PLACE, PURPOSE AND PRIORITIES:

Expanding ViiV Healthcare's Commitment to Chicago's Community HIV Response

How will we connect across communities, sectors and organizations to disrupt disparities in HIV care in Chicago?

When it comes to HIV prevention and care, where you live matters. To disrupt HIV disparities, there's a need to commit to the hyper-local voices, networks and efforts that drive change.

Disparities in health outcomes differ by zip codes, census tracts and neighborhoods. Communities most challenged by the root causes of health inequities - racism, poverty, unemployment, food and housing insecurity and poor educational conditions - don't often benefit from medical advances and standards of care as those in higher-resource communities do. The complexities of how HIV impacts people and communities in 2021 require new thinking, strong networks, skilled organizing and inspired commitment from individuals, communities, policy makers, media, government and funders. **We at ViiV Healthcare, the only company solely focused on HIV, are doubling down to find, fuel and fund community-led programs that disrupt disparities and improve linkages to care and supportive services for people living with and vulnerable to HIV.**

Building on learnings from [accelerate](#) in Baltimore, MD and Jackson, MS, ViiV Healthcare's 'place-based' initiatives are about much more than money. They're about listening, connections, communications, collaborations and culture. **By focusing on place, we are supporting people and networks within communities most impacted by HIV – meeting them where they are and supporting their approaches to get to where they want to be.**

Community-Led Listening

ViiV Healthcare has been connecting with Chicago community leaders, organizations and individuals working in and adjacent to HIV spaces to get a pulse of what's happening for people living with and vulnerable to HIV and those who serve them. Community folks shared a wealth of ideas for activating change, focusing on grassroots, community-led solutions. Long-standing challenges – the complicated funding landscape, housing instability, economic and food insecurity, ongoing racial tension and relentless violence, homophobia and transphobia – have gotten worse over the past year. In response to these compounded crises, community leaders have expanded their vision and their essential supports for food, housing and mental health; have simplified systems and improved access to care; and have created lifesaving, affirming spaces and services despite overwhelming challenges and loss. As we emerge from the COVID-19 shadow and people get more comfortable re-entering healthcare settings, organizations are beginning to see a surge in individuals accessing HIV testing and other services.

Learn more about what we heard from our Chicago community conversations [here](#).

Informed by this listening, ViiV Healthcare is activating new resources for projects that expand access to education, quality prevention, care and supportive services, foster community collaborations and disrupt HIV health disparities. With a focus on networks, linkage and re-linkage to care and advocacy, we aim to help more people get the HIV prevention and care they need.

Proposals for work focused in the South and West sides of Chicago, led by LGBTQ people of color and conducted in partnership with those within and outside of the HIV space will be prioritized.

Chicago-based organizations are eligible to submit proposals for projects that have shown promise and/or experiment with new approaches that can disrupt disparities existing in HIV prevention, care and treatment. Projects may be tightly focused on a specific population or connect and serve people across key populations.

Programmatic resources will be available for organizations with plans to:

- / **Expand networks and safe spaces for people living with and vulnerable to HIV.** For example:
 - o Formal and informal networks of people and/or organizations that share information, build leadership, provide support and address critical gaps in HIV prevention and care
 - o Alliances, coalitions and spaces that support individuals and/or groups to come together from different places and across key populations
 - o HIV-related outreach events that reach families, families of choice, allies and friends
- / **Enhance resources to linkage and re-linkage to prevention, treatment and care services in places where essential needs are being met and coordinated efforts are pivotal.** For example:
 - o Increased navigation services that expand access to education, prevention and care at the intersection of HIV and prisons, substance use, sex work, housing, food security and mental health
 - o Training and leadership development for peer and non-peer navigators, case managers and program staff to address critical gaps, collaborate and meet the needs of those they serve
- / **Fuel advocacy that expands affirming care and changes the dynamics that drive HIV disparities.** For example:
 - o Partnerships, coalitions, organizing and plans that can expand access at the intersection of HIV and mental health, housing, economic empowerment and substance use
 - o Community-led feedback loops, cultural humility training and advocacy to expand affirming care
 - o Arts, culture, outreach and narrative change efforts that amplify the voices of people living with HIV, address stigma and share critical prevention and care information

Organizations can request between \$10,000 - \$250,000 per year, for up to three years, as part of ViiV Healthcare's [Positive Action Community Grants](#).

- / Individual projects, executed by one organization, are eligible for grants up to \$150,000 per year.
- / Proposed projects that include formal partnerships and collaborative ideas (executed by at least two organizations working through an MOU or similar) are eligible for grants of up to \$250,000 per eligible organization/per collaboration.

Please see the [Positive Action Community Grants RFP](#) for eligibility. Applications are due by August 27, 2021.

ViiV Healthcare will stand as a supportive partner alongside individuals, organizations and communities that persist in the fight against HIV and AIDS in Chicago. We will leverage our resources and relationships to fund, convene, connect and communicate to move the needle on HIV health disparities for those on the margins. We hope to see more – and more affirming – resources for projects that expand access to education, quality prevention, care and supportive services; community collaborations and relationships; and community connectivity among all people living with and vulnerable to HIV.

Questions and Submissions

Organizations interested in applying for funding need to register to access our [Online Grantee Portal](#) (Fluxx) and submit a proposal.

All questions and inquiries should be directed to Amelia Korangy at amelia.x.korangy@viihealthcare.com or the ViiV Healthcare Help Desk at viiv@tccgrp.com.