

# **Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Regional Learning Collaborative**

*Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento,  
San Bernardino, San Diego, and San Francisco Counties*



**Session 26:**  
*Policy Action to End the HIV Epidemic*

**Tuesday, September 26, 2023**  
**10-11:30 a.m. PT**

# Session Agenda

## 1) Presentations

- **Ayako Miyashita Ochoa, JD**
  - Associate Director, Southern California HIV/AIDS Policy Research Center
- **Katja Nelson, MPP**
  - Local Affairs Specialist, Government Affairs, APLA Health
- **Ande Stone**
  - Senior Community Mobilization Manager, San Francisco AIDS Foundation

## 2) Panel Discussion/Q&A

➤ Enter questions using



➤ Share comments/resources using



# Southern California HIV/AIDS Policy Research Center

*Funded by the California HIV/AIDS Research Program (H21PC3466)*

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UC San Diego

APLAHealth



TRUEVOLUTION  
ORGANIZE • EDUCATE • MOBILIZE



# Our Team



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Project Coordinator

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Ayako M Ochoa  
Co-PI



Nina Harawa  
Co-I



Arleen Leibowitz  
Co-I

UC Riverside



Brandon Brown  
Co-I

# CHPRC Mission

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- Three collaborative California HIV/AIDS Policy Research Centers, funded by the California HIV/AIDS Research Program, support research and policy analysis that addresses critical issues related to HIV/AIDS care and prevention in California.
- The core mission of our combined centers is to critically evaluate how laws and policies impact communities and propose innovative solutions with a focus on achieving equity.
- The work of our research centers focuses on a “rapid response,” which involves short-term research projects designed to quickly address questions that emerge in a dynamic health policy environment.

# Defining Policy

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## The 3 Branches of Government



**LEGISLATIVE**



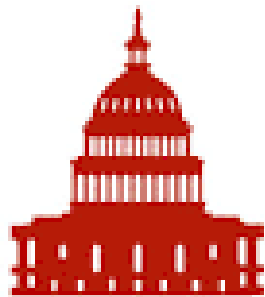
*makes laws*



**EXECUTIVE**



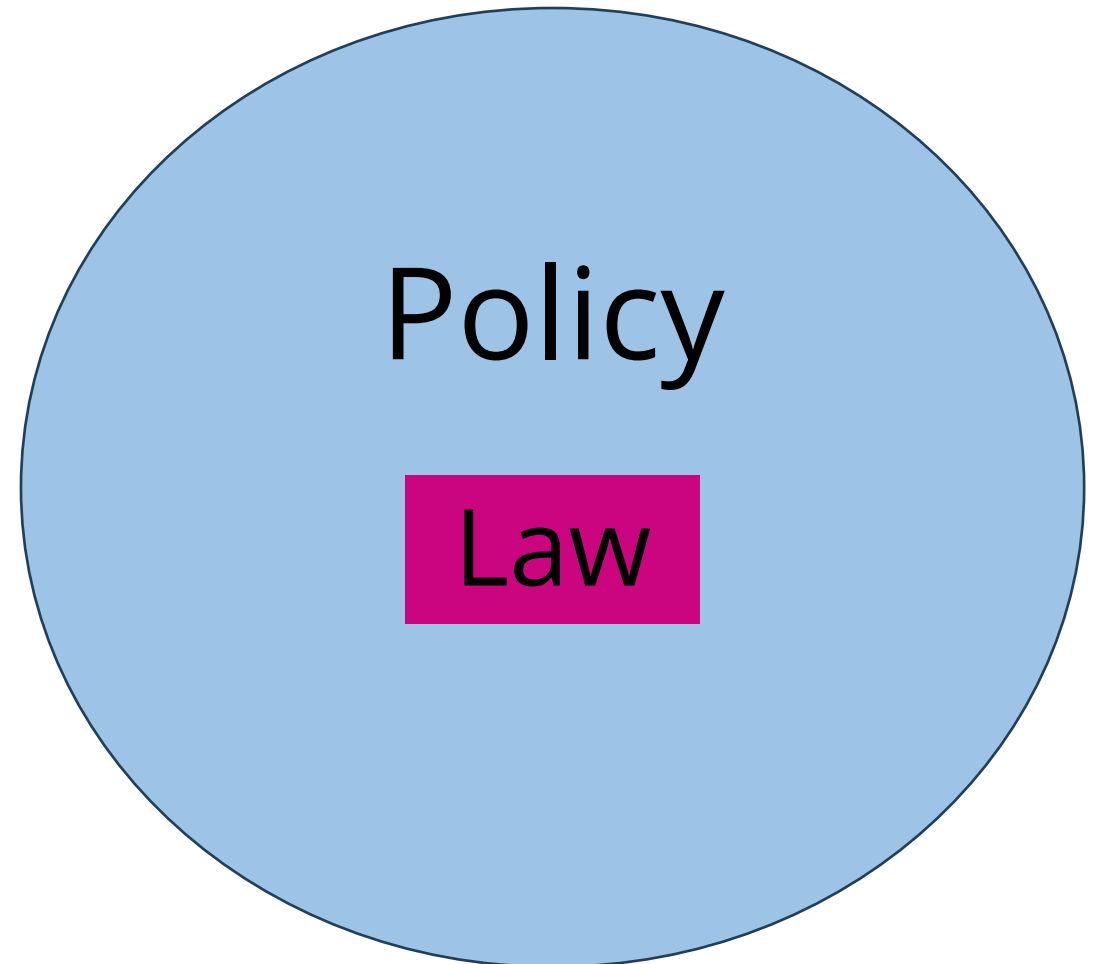
*carries out laws*



**JUDICIAL**



*evaluates laws*





# Focus Areas

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HIV among **racial/ethnic minorities**

HIV and **aging**

HIV among **sexual and gender minorities**

HIV and **border health**

HIV and **mental health**

HIV **law and policy**

HIV **epidemiology**

HIV among **women**

HIV and **rurality**

HIV and **sexually transmitted diseases**

HIV and **criminal justice involvement**

HIV and **sex work**

HIV and **substance use**

HIV **criminalization**

HIV and **immigrants**

HIV and **poverty**

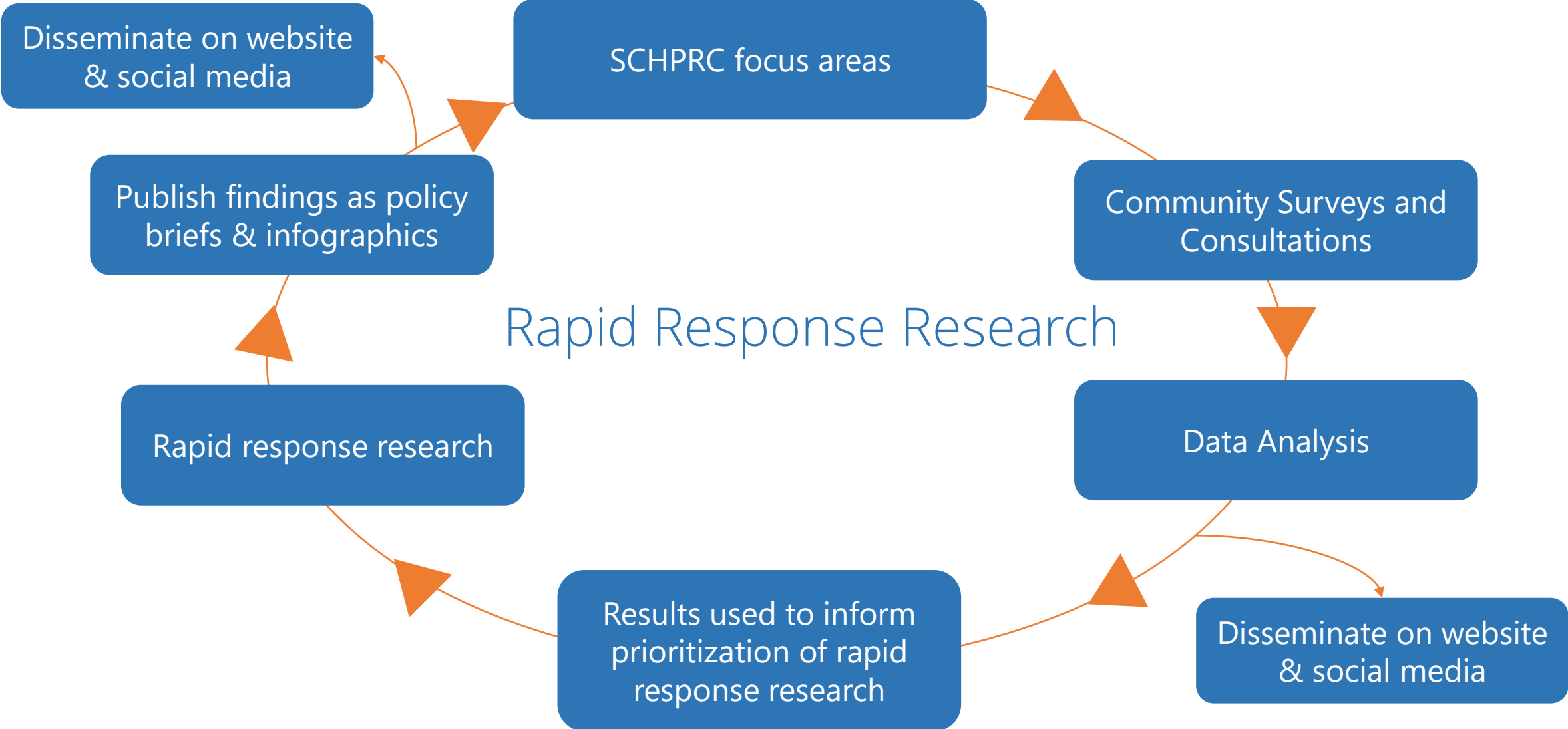
**Modeling studies**

HIV and **ethics**

HIV and **technology**

HIV among **gender-based violence**

# Research Process



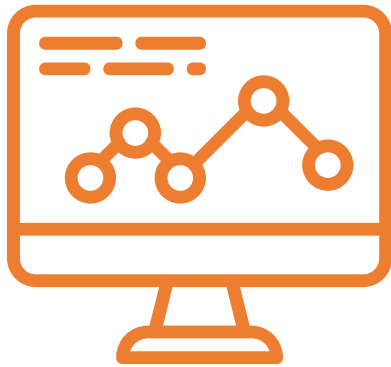


# Research Methods

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Rapid assessment protocol



Secondary data analysis

# Research Products

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## Policy Briefs

[Are California pharmacists ready to provide long-acting injectable PrEP for HIV Prevention?](#)

[Risk of Criminalization among Sex Workers Carrying Condoms](#)

## Manuscripts

[Insights from Drug Checking Programs: Practicing Bootstrap Public Health Whilst Tailoring to Local Drug User Needs](#)

## Fact Sheets

[New California Guidance for PrEP Coverage Contingency Management](#)

## Proceedings

[Inland Empire SCHPRC Convening](#)  
[End the Epidemics Strategy Meeting Proceedings](#)

## Infographics

[Zero-Cost Preventive Care for Californians & Extended Coverage for STI Screenings](#)

[Comparison of Approaches to Linkage to Post-Release Care Between Community Medical, Behavioral Health, and Re-entry Service Providers](#)

## Data Visualizations

[Lens Mapping Tool](#)  
[Transgender People and HIV in California](#)

# Measures of Impact

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## Informing legislative proposals

[SB 339: California Health Benefits Review Program](#)

## Informing policy priorities

[SB 239: HIV Criminalization in California](#)

## Informing the broader public

[SB 233: Decriminalization Condom Possession](#)

[SB 357: Eliminating Loitering with Intent to Commit Prostitution](#)

# Stay Connected

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@cahivpolicyrc



@ca\_hiv\_policyrc



CALIFORNIA  
HIV / AIDS POLICY  
RESEARCH CENTERS



# Policy Action to End the HIV Epidemic

Katja Nelson, MPP

APLA Health



APLA Health restores dignity and trust within underserved communities by providing world-class LGBTQ+ empowering healthcare, HIV specialty care, food, housing and other essential support services.

# What We Do

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Advocate for optimal HIV services and healthcare:

- Policy
- Legislation
- Programs
- Funding

Target all levels of government:

- Federal
- State
- Local



[Services](#) [Get Involved](#) [News](#) [Events](#) [Advocacy](#) [Locations & Hours](#) [About](#)



**Advocacy**



# What We Do, Continued...

Operate unilaterally and in broad coalitions:

- AIDS United
- National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)
- California Primary Care Association (CPCA)
- Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC)
- End the Epidemics Coalition
- LA County Commission on HIV
- Southern California HIV/AIDS Policy Research Center (CHPRC)



## Advocate for evidence-based health policy

- Be a voice for the health needs of LGBTQ+ individuals, other underserved communities, and people living with and affected by HIV
- Work at the community, state, and national levels to improve health policy outcomes
- Contribute to global advocacy on behalf of the populations we serve
- Increase access to care and improve health outcomes for PLWHA, LGBTQ+ and other underserved populations



- Affordable Care Act (ACA)
- Medicaid, Medicare, Private Insurance
- 330 and FQHCs
- 340B and Drug Pricing
- Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program
- AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)
- CDC Prevention Programs
- Plans to End the HIV Epidemic (EHE)
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- LGBT and Social Justice Issues (e.g., immigration, criminalization, aging, etc.)
- Federal, State and Local Appropriations



# Ending the HIV Epidemic

We have an unprecedented opportunity to end the HIV epidemic in America

## The time is Now.

#EndHIVEpidemic

Ending the HIV Epidemic  
A PLAN FOR AMERICA

### GOAL:

reaching 75% reduction in new HIV infections by 2025 and at least 90% reduction by 2030.

HHS will work with each community to establish local teams on the ground to tailor and implement strategies to:

- Diagnose** all people with HIV as early as possible after infection.
- Treat** the infection rapidly and effectively to achieve sustained viral suppression.
- Prevent** new HIV transmissions by using proven interventions, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and syringe services programs (SSPs).
- Respond** quickly to potential HIV outbreaks to get needed prevention and treatment services to people who need them.



National Low Income Housing Coalition

National AIDS Housing Coalition



Ending the HIV Epidemic



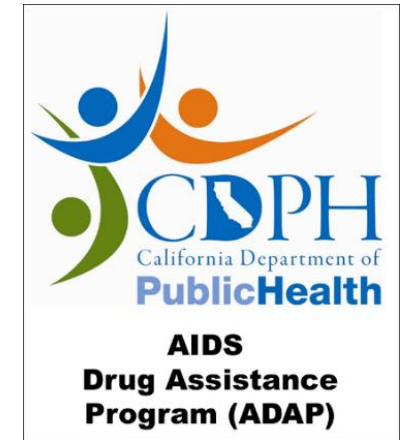
National Institutes of Health



H. R. \_\_\_\_\_  
 IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 A BILL  
 To amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to improve affordability of, and increase access to, health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

# Policy & Advocacy at the State Level

- Legislative Advocacy
  - SB 239: Updated CA's HIV criminal laws
  - SB 159: Made it easier to access PrEP & PEP
  - *SB 306: Expanding access to STD services*
  - *SB 110: Expanding access to meth treatment*
- Budget Advocacy
  - Secured \$20+ million for HIV and STD programs
  - *Increasing funding for HIV, hepatitis, STDs and harm reduction*
- Administrative Advocacy
  - Created a financial assistance program for PrEP & PEP
  - *Maintaining telehealth flexibilities after the pandemic*



**END THE  
EPIDEMICS**

It's time to end the HIV, HCV & STD  
epidemics in California.

# END THE EPIDEMICS

It's time to end the HIV, HCV & STD  
epidemics in California.

*Community Consensus Statement*

May 23, 2019

**We, the undersigned organizations, call on Governor Newsom and the California Legislature to act now to end the HIV, HCV, and STD epidemics.**

**THE OPPORTUNITY:** California is at an unprecedented moment in response to HIV, hepatitis C (HCV), and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). With highly effective treatments and proven prevention tools, California can now dramatically reduce new transmissions, improve the health of people living with these conditions, and bring these epidemics to an end.

**THE CHALLENGE:** Over 5,000 Californians are newly diagnosed with HIV each year—more than any other state in the nation—and over 400,000 California residents are currently living with HCV.<sup>1</sup> STD cases reached a record high for the third year in a row, with more Californians being diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis in 2017 than ever before.<sup>2</sup>

HIV, HCV, and STDs are interrelated epidemics—also known as a syndemic—impacting many of California's most disadvantaged communities, including people of color, gay and bisexual men, transgender individuals, women, people experiencing homelessness, youth, and people who use drugs. Bold action is needed to integrate our response to these epidemics and eliminate health disparities and inequities.

**THE SOLUTION:** Ending these epidemics will require renewed commitment from elected officials and strategic new investments in effective education, prevention, and treatment programs. It will also require structural responses to address the economic and social conditions that drive these epidemics, including stigma and discrimination, poverty, and unstable housing. Failure to act decisively will only result in more transmissions and significantly higher public and private health care costs.

On April 10, 2018, a group of 50 public health and community leaders convened in Los Angeles to build support for a statewide strategy to end the HIV, HCV, and STD epidemics.<sup>3</sup> The convening was informed by other recent statewide efforts, including California's Integrated HIV Surveillance, Prevention, and Care Plan and Viral Hepatitis Prevention Strategic Plan.<sup>4</sup> While these plans outline important goals and recommendations, they do not adequately speak to the need for broad-based community engagement or the political will, resources, and cross-departmental collaboration that will be required to address these epidemics effectively.

California's strategy will only work if it is endorsed by the state's Governor and Legislature and brings all relevant stakeholders to the table—including government and public health officials, health care and social service providers, researchers, the private and nonprofit sectors, and

## ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC IN THE UNITED STATES: A ROADMAP FOR FEDERAL ACTION

**We can end the HIV  
epidemic by 2025.**

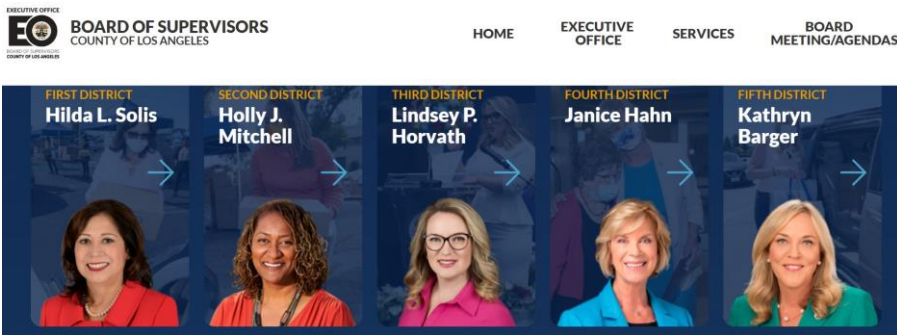
A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DOCUMENT  
DRAFTED AND PUBLISHED BY

**AIDS**  
**United**  **ACT NOW: END AIDS**



# Policy & Advocacy at the Local Level

- Los Angeles County Commission on HIV
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Division of HIV & STD Programs and other relevant County departments
- Los Angeles Housing Department HOPWA program and other housing/homelessness departments
- City of Los Angeles AIDS Coordinator's Office
- Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors & various City Councils
- Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC)



Ending the HIV Epidemic





# Ending the HIV Epidemic at the Local Level

## Ending the HIV Epidemic in Los Angeles County

By utilizing the right data, right tools & right leadership

The five-year federal initiative, Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S., focuses on four key pillars to end the epidemic: (1) Diagnose people as early as possible, (2) Treat people rapidly and effectively, (3) Prevent new HIV transmissions, and (4) Respond quickly to HIV outbreaks. Through collaboration with key stakeholders and community partners, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Division of HIV and STD Programs, plans to implement activities that enhance the current HIV portfolio, align with the four pillars, improve HIV-related health outcomes, and prevent new transmissions.

**59,400** people living with HIV in LA County

**1,400** new transmissions per year

**6,800** are unaware of their HIV positive status

**76,000** people would benefit from PrEP

**54,500** of the 76,000 are Black & Latinx people who would benefit from PrEP

### Diagnose

- Increase routine opt out HIV testing in healthcare & institutional settings.
- Increase HIV testing programs in non-healthcare settings including self-testing.
- Increase client's yearly HIV re-screening of persons with elevated HIV risk.

### Prevent

- Utilize data to better identify and link persons with indication for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).
- Expand PrEP access, including through telehealth and pharmacies.
- Improve PrEP retention in care through provider and consumer automated communication.
- Expand Syringe Services Programs to provide HIV prevention (and treatment) services and/or linked referrals.

### Treat

- Facilitate rapid ART and linkage to care at partner clinics.
- Increase knowledge of and access to free and low-cost HIV services through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.
- Assess and improve mental health services for people with HIV.
- Improve client experience by working with clinical staff.
- Develop programs that provide housing and emergency financial assistance services.

### Respond

- Implement routine real-time cluster detection and response in hot spots and subpopulations via the County's Cluster Detection and Response Plan.
- Expand Partner Services to interview partners of people newly diagnosed with HIV as soon as possible.
- Build surveillance infrastructure at the public health department.

Data estimates pulled from the [Division of HIV and STD Programs: 2021 HIV Surveillance Annual Report](#).

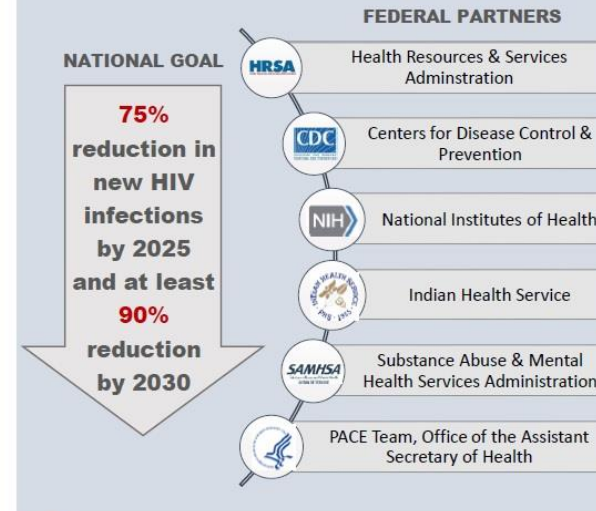
\*MSM: men who have sex with men

Revised: October 2022



## Federal Funding in LA County

Various entities have received federal funding from HRSA, CDC & NIH to support Ending the HIV Epidemic goals and strategies, including the public health department, federally qualified health centers, AIDS Education Training Centers, and research partners.



Did you know HIV cannot be transmitted sexually if a person maintains an undetectable viral load? Learn more [here](#).

For more information on Ending the HIV Epidemic visit [HRSA](#) & [CDC](#) websites.

## Community engagement will play an important role in ending the HIV epidemic.

In collaboration with the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV, PACE & other partners, the Division of HIV and STD Programs is:

- Increasing HIV education and awareness across the County.
- Developing partnerships outside of the HIV sector to ensure all community voices are included.
- Utilizing the [Ending the HIV Epidemic Steering Committee](#) to guide efforts & ensure communities most impacted by HIV are engaged.

## We need your help! Get involved

- ✓ Share about the [Ending the HIV Epidemic \(EHE\)](#) Initiative in Los Angeles County.
- ✓ Learn more about [PrEP](#), the medication that prevents HIV. It's free for those who qualify.
- ✓ [Get tested](#) to know your status and encourage others to do the same.
- ✓ Educate yourself & others about [HIV](#) to reduce stigma.
- ✓ Attend Los Angeles County Commission on HIV [meetings](#) to get connected.
- ✓ Email [EHEinitiative@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:EHEinitiative@ph.lacounty.gov) to sign up for the EHE Listserv.

Source: <https://www.lacounty.hiv/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/EHE-Infographic-EN-FINAL-upd-10.07.2022.pdf>



# Thank you!

Questions? Interested in Getting Involved?

Email me at [knelson@aplahealth.org](mailto:knelson@aplahealth.org)





# PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

Building People Power For  
Social Change

**HIV  
ADVOCACY  
NETWORK**

HIV Advocacy

Network



# Mission

SFAF's HIV Advocacy Network (HAN) is a grassroots group of LGBTQ & HIV activists in the Bay Area fighting to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic and to improve the lives of communities impacted by HIV.





**HEALTH JUSTICE**



**HARM REDUCTION**



**AGING JUSTICE**



**HOUSING JUSTICE**



**INTERSECTIONAL  
SOLIDARITY**

# Fundamentals of Organizing



# Continuum of Methods for Addressing Social Problems

**Works within  
Existing Power  
Relationships**

**Challenges  
Existing Power  
Relationships**

**Social Service**

**Self Help**

**Research &  
Education**

**Advocacy**

**Direct Action  
Organizing**

# Principles of Organizing

1

**Win concrete improvements in people's lives.**

Even when the issues are big, complex, or long-term; we must break it down into smaller concrete and winnable campaigns. Without concrete actionable campaigns, there's no way to measure success in making change happen.

2

**Make people aware of their own power.**

Organizing means building and exercising people power. It's crucial that we help people see the value in united action to make change happen.

3

**Alter the relations of power.**

- Build strong organizations and groups
- Pass new laws and budgets that address structural inequality
- Build the movement by allying with others groups

# Stages of a Strategic Campaign

## Choose an Issue & Develop a Strategy

Identify a problem and a solution and a plan for winning your campaign.

## Communicate with Decision Maker

Open lines of communication with the person(s) who have the power to give you what you want. Make your case, sometimes the issue is resolved, if not move on to the next stage of a campaign.

## Begin Outreach & Org Build

Every campaign is a chance to build your people power and prepare folks for a large turnout action. Build support & momentum for your group & cause.

## Stage Encounters

Engage with the person(s) who have the power to give you what you want. You may still be too small or weak to be successful, continue to build your power and pressure the decision maker.

## Win or Regroup

After a series of successful build-up events it's time to confront the decision maker. If victory or compromise is not reached, be prepared to escalate tactics..

**SILENCE = DEATH**  
STILL

Fund HIV Communities in San Francisco.

**Case Study:**

**San Francisco Budget**

# Building People Power!

- **Recruitment**
  - Presented to 16 groups in the HIV community
  - Organized 3 canvasses in the community
- **Knowledge is Power**
  - Developed a Budget Priorities Document
  - Developed Talking Points
  - Hosted a SF HIV Budget Townhall





# Activating Our Power!

- **Mobilization**

- March to City Hall & Rally on the steps
- 11 Constituent meetings
- Over 280 advocates sent in over 3,330 emails to elected officials



# HIV Community Budget Proposal



PRESERVE THE HIV CARE SAFETY NET	BACKFILL CUTS	NO CUTS!
MENTAL HEALTH FOR LTS	\$500K	FIGHT CONTINUES
HIV HOUSING SUBSIDIES	\$3 MILLION	\$1.25 MILLION
SUPPORT HIV ORGANIZATIONS	\$500K	\$500K
INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT	\$500K	FIGHT CONTINUES
OVERDOSE PREVENTION SITES	\$1-2 MILLION	\$18 MILLION



# Demand Action Against Monkeypox Now (DAAMN)

Case Study:

MPX

# Building People Power!

- **Recruitment**

- Canvassed in vaccines lines in San Francisco & the east bay (2150 Petition Signatures)
- 100+ member MPX General Chat
- 31 member MPX Comms & Storytelling Chat
- 33 member MPX Actions Chat
- 20 member MPX Outreach Chat

- **Building Knowledge**

- SFAF Monkeypox Townhall
- DAAMN Activist Townhall





# Activating People Power

## Protests

- Protest Outside HHS
- Cut the Red Tape Protest

## Public Comment

- Public Comment at the BoS Hearing on MPX
- Public Comment at Senate Select Committee Hearing on MPX

## Media Engagement

- Lifted up stories of folks experiencing symptoms & trying to access vaccines
- Highlighted the gaps in the system and failure of governmental response





# Victories

- **Transparency**
  - SFDPH case count public dashboard
  - SFDPH weekly meetings
- **Vaccine Access**
  - Increased eligibility to include sex workers & TGNC folks
  - Vaccine access increased dramatically, through an EUA approved at the federal level
- **Public Health Response**
  - San Francisco, CA & federal PHE unlocks funding and cuts red tape
  - \$41.5 million in state emergency funding



**END THE**  
**EPIDEMICS**

**DAY OF ACTION 2023**

**Case Study:**

**California Budget**



# END THE EPIDEMICS

Californians Mobilizing to End HIV,  
STIs, Viral Hepatitis & Overdose



## Day of Action

May 15, 2023



# Building People Power! EtE Week of Action 2023

- 116 Advocates
  - 38 CA Assembly Districts
  - 27 CA Senate Districts
- Events & Trainings
  - Rally at Capitol Mall
  - March
  - Advocate Trainings
  - Happy Hour



Photo by Brooke Anderson | @movementphotographer



# End the Epidemics Budget Victories

## **END THE EPIDEMICS**

Californians Mobilizing to End HIV,  
STIs, Viral Hepatitis & Overdose

<b>INVEST IN HARM REDUCTION</b>	<b>\$61 MILLION</b>	<b>\$61 MILLION</b>
<b>HEPATITIS C PREVENTION &amp; LINKAGE TO CARE</b>	<b>\$15 MILLION</b>	<b>\$15 MILLION</b>



# Questions?

Ande Stone

Senior Community Mobilization Manager

San Francisco AIDS Foundation

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