

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

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



**Session 22:**  
***Strategies to Support Access to HIV Services***

**Tuesday, October 25, 2022**  
**10-11:30 a.m. PT**

# Session Agenda

## 1) Presentations

- California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS
  - Leroy Blea, MPH, Ending the Epidemics Project Manager
- Alameda Health Consortium
  - Megan Crowley, MPH, HIV Project Manager
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Division of HIV and STD Programs
  - Kim Bui, MPH, Section Manager - Direct Community Services

## 2) Panel Discussion/Q&A

- Enter questions using



- Share comments/resources using



# Community Planning and Programs to Support Access to HIV Services in California

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Leroy Blea

Ending the Epidemics Program Manager

California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS

**Ending the HIV Epidemic Regional Learning Collaborative**

**October 25, 2022**

Overview

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Community Planning

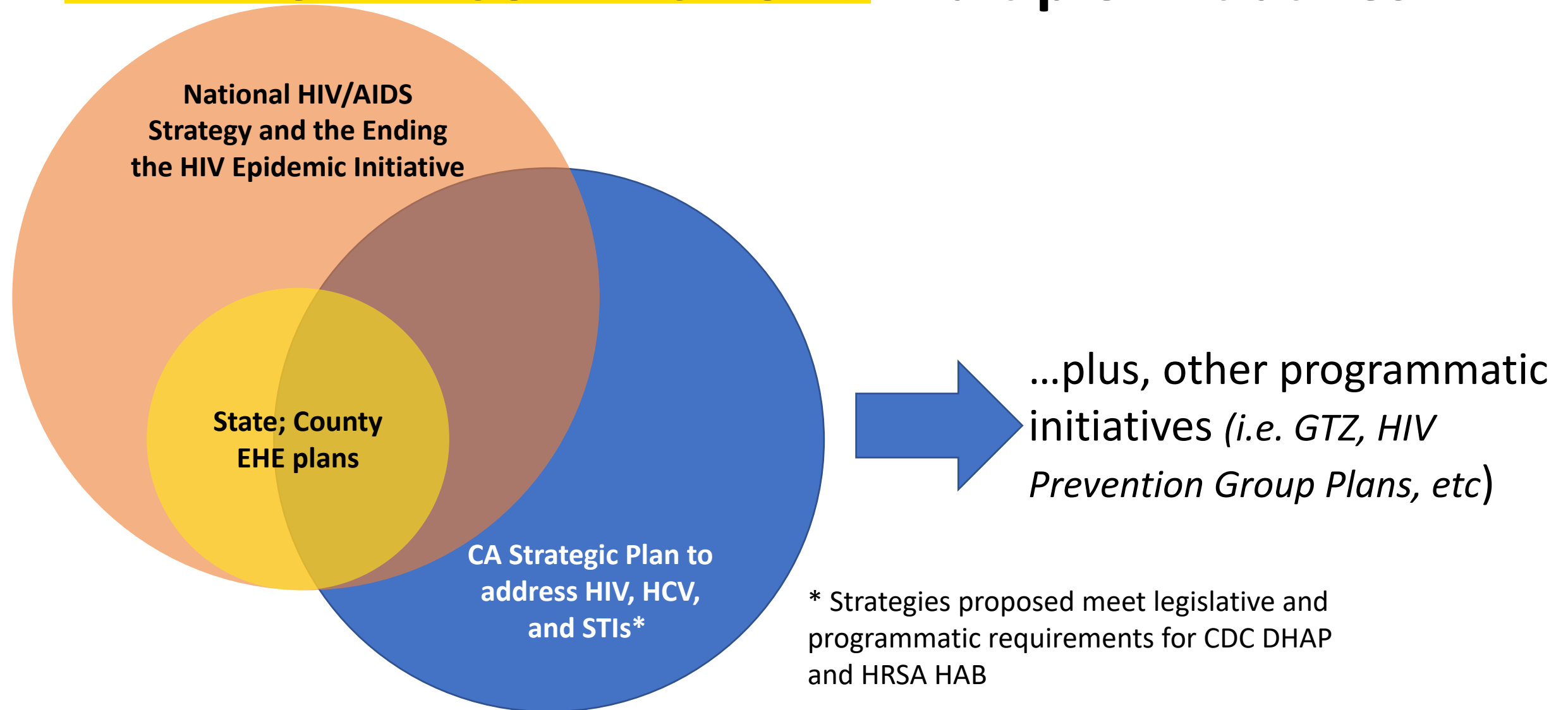
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Program Examples

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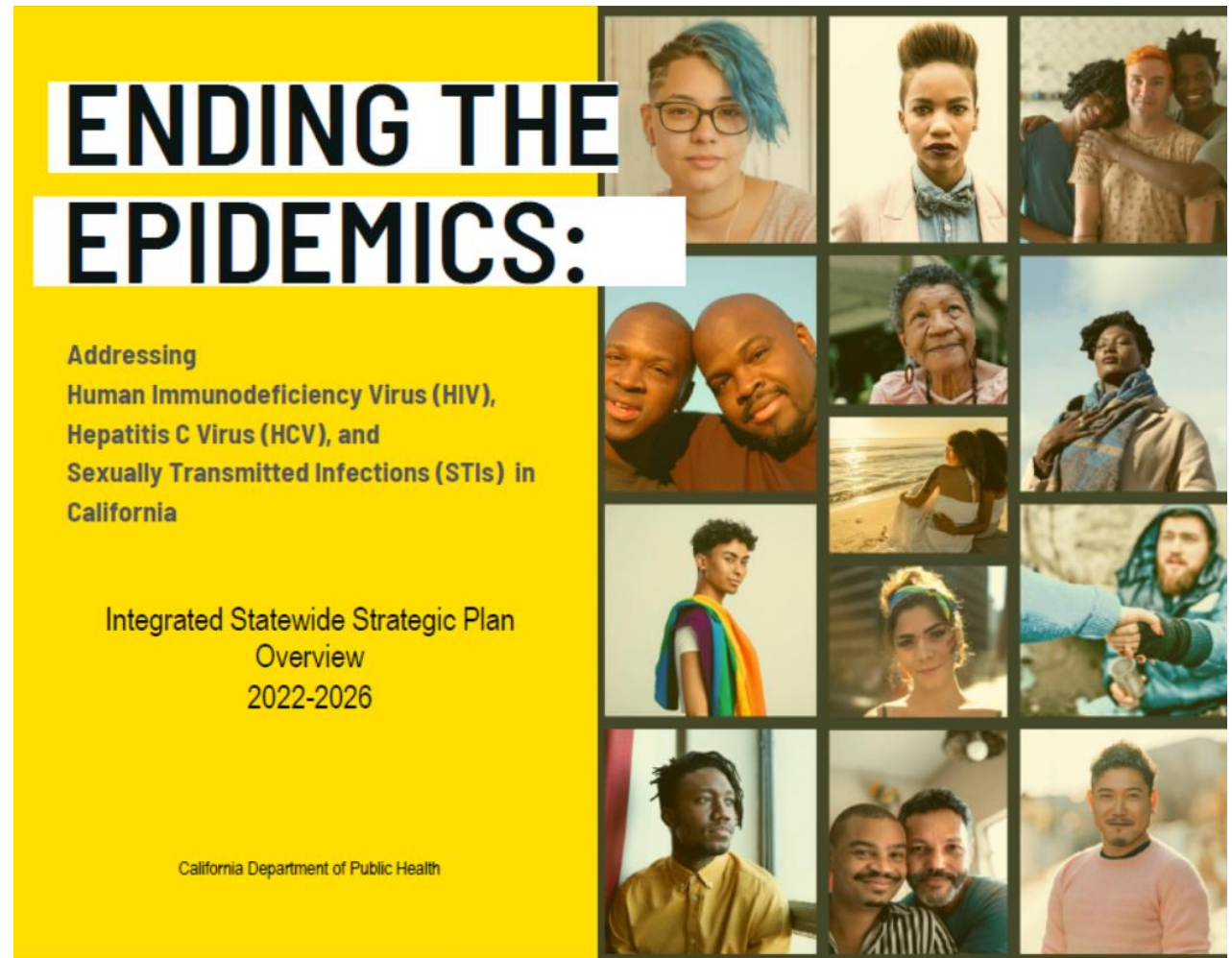
Resources

# MAKING THE CONNECTION: Multiple Initiatives



# Overarching Principles

- Addressing HIV as a syndemic with STIs and HCV through a social determinants of health lens
- Achieving health equity and reducing disparities
- Implementing status neutral approaches
- Focus on priority populations





CDPH is prioritizing **six key social determinants of health**, each with **five broad strategies**, over the next five years.

## Racial Equity



1. Leadership and workforce development
2. Racial/Ethnic data collection and stratification
3. Equitable distribution of funding and resources
4. Community engagement
5. Racial and social justice training

## Housing First



1. Data collection and use
2. Infrastructure changes
3. New models of housing access
4. Street medicine strategies
5. Low-barrier housing options

## Health Access for All



1. Redesigned Care Delivery
2. Trauma-Informed and Responsive Services
3. Fewer Hurdles to Healthcare Coverage
4. Culturally and Linguistically Relevant Services
5. Collaboration and Streamlining

## Stigma Free



1. Nothing about us without us
2. Reframe policies and messaging
3. Positive, accurate information
4. Acknowledge medical mistrust
5. Ongoing partnerships

## Economic Justice



1. Workforce development
2. Employment for people with lived experience
3. Equitable hiring practices and fair pay
4. Leadership development
5. Universal hiring and housing policies

## Mental Health & Substance Use



1. Overdose prevention in correctional setting
2. Mental health and substance use disorder treatment access through telehealth
3. Build harm reduction infrastructure
4. Expand low-threshold SUD treatment options
5. Cross-sector collaboration

# Evaluation

## Includes 6 Metrics

Variable	Target: 2025/2030
Incidence	75%/90%
Knowledge of HIV Status	95%
Viral Suppression	95%
Diagnoses	75%/90%
Linkage to HIV Medical Care	95%
PrEP Coverage	50%



**AHEAD** 

America's HIV Epidemic Analysis Dashboard

View local data and track progress towards ending the HIV epidemic.

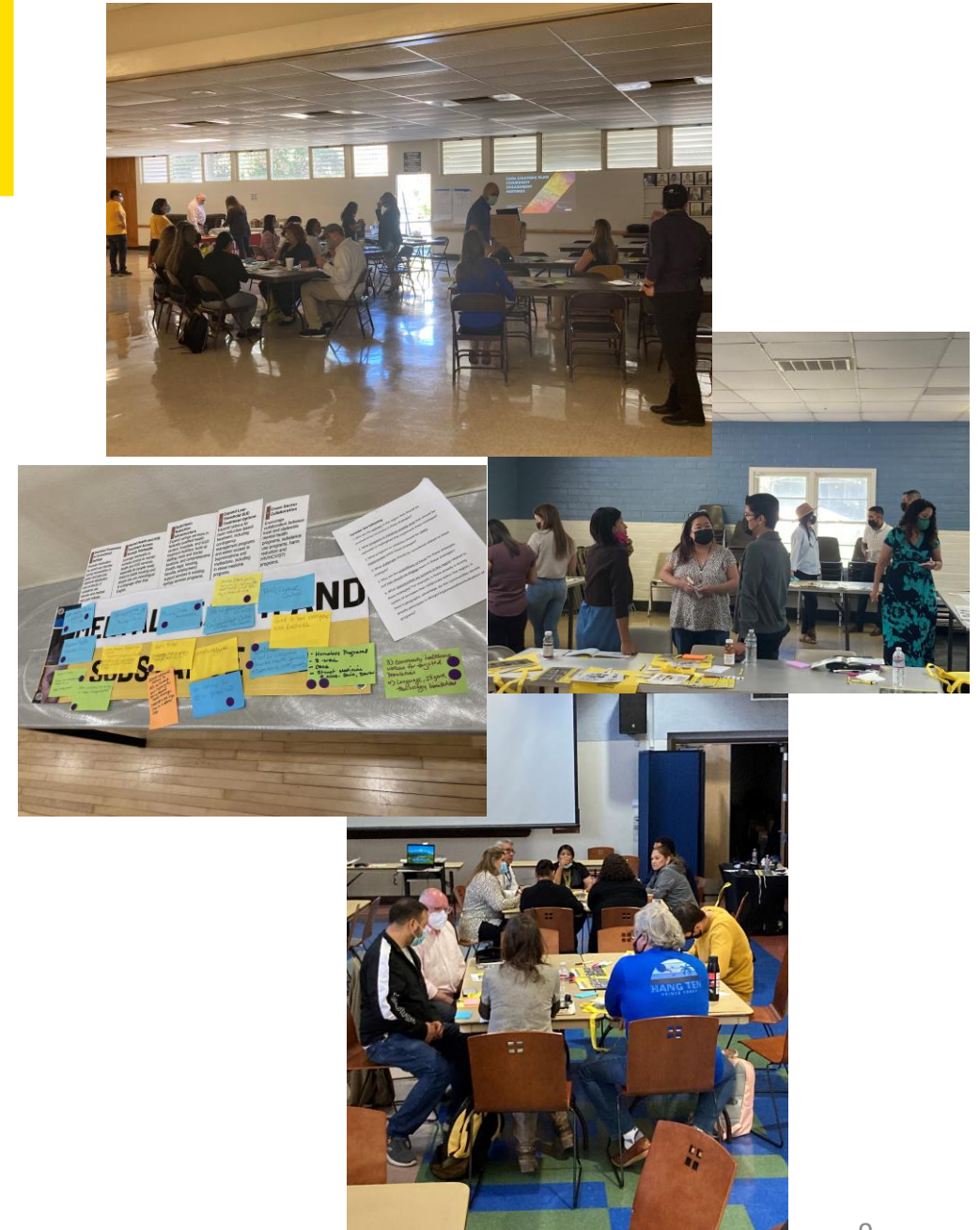
[VISIT AHEAD.HIV.GOV](https://ahead.hiv.gov)

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# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Initial presentation to CPG and Part A Planning bodies
  - CPG, Inland/Empire, LA, Alameda, Sacramento, San Fran, Santa Clara
- Statewide Townhall (over 460 participants)
- 17 In-Person Meetings throughout 5 regions; 4 virtual meetings
  - April – July, 300+ attendees
- Virtual Input Survey
- Providers' Needs Assessment for Integrated Plan
  - 130 respondents from 27 counties throughout California
- **Planned: Concurrence October/November 2022**
- **Planned: Draft Blueprint review period Dec/January 2023 (public comment)**
- **Planned: Second-round Presentations to Planning Councils January 2023**



# EXAMPLES OF SYNDEMIC WORK: INNOVATIONS AND ADVANCES

## CDPH Office of AIDS

### Street Medicine



- Addressing social determinants of health
- Effectively delivers mobile primary care and other supportive services to unhoused communities

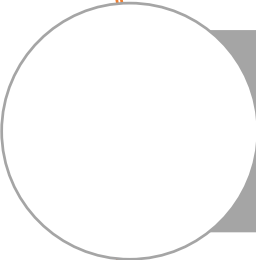
### Take Me Home

- Person-centered self-testing
- Puts integrated screening into the hands of clients
- Plan to expand this service to all California counties

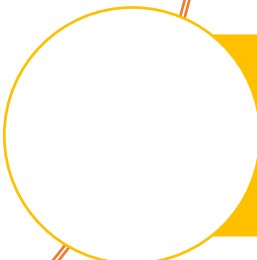
## CDPH STD Control Branch

An orange circle icon with a line passing through it.

Emergency department community of practice for syphilis, HIV, and HCV screening

A grey circle icon with a line passing through it.

Integration of STD, HIV, HCV and overdose into STD and HCV prevention and collaboration grants

A yellow circle icon with a line passing through it.

Including HCV care status in HIV out-of-care line lists for LHJs to support integrated case follow up

# HIV Prevention Branch

The HIV Prevention Branch funds initiatives to assist local health departments and other HIV service providers to implement effective HIV detection and prevention programs.

- HIV and HCV Testing
  - Focused and ROOT
  - OraQuick
- Demonstration Projects
  - PrEP and PEP Navigator Projects
  - Project Empowerment
  - Rapid Antiretroviral Treatment Projects

# HIV Care Branch

The goals of the HIV Care Branch are to

- (1) reduce the number of new HIV infections
- (2) increase access to quality of care, and
- (3) reduce HIV/AIDS related health disparities.

- AIDS Medi-Cal Waiver Program
- HIV Care Program
- Housing Plus Project
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS
- Minority AIDS Initiative

# AIDS Drug Assistance Program Branch

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Branch administers both ADAP for people living with HIV and AIDS in California, and the Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Assistance Program (PrEP-AP) for HIV negative individuals living in California, for the prevention of HIV.

- AIDS Drug Assistance Program
  - Health Insurance Premium Payment Program
  - Employer Based Health Insurance Premium Payment Program
  - Medicare Part D Premium Payment
- PrEP-AP
- PrEP Temporary Coverage
- PrEP Immediate Access

# PrEP-AP Benefits

All enrolled PrEP-AP Clients can access these services at no cost:

Medication



PrEP & PEP,  
STI Treatment/Prevention,  
Rapid ART

Testing



HIV,  
Renal & Liver Function,  
STI & Hepatitis,  
Pregnancy

Services



PrEP related Office  
Visits & Services

**Note:** PrEP-AP will cover remaining costs for these services after third party payers such as pharmaceutical assistance programs and insurance have been utilized



# Where is PrEP-AP?

- Throughout California, PrEP-AP partners with:
- Enrollment sites
  - Clinical providers
  - Pharmacies (Magellan network, or AssistRx for clients enrolled in Advancing Access®)
  - **Telehealth services available**

Find a PrEP-AP enrollment site or clinical provider at:

<https://cdphdata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6878d3a1c9724418aebfea96878cd5b2>

## PrEP-AP SITE Locator

-  PREP-AP ENROLLMENT SITE
-  PREP-AP CLINICAL PROVIDER SITE
-  PREP-AP CLINICAL PROVIDER AND ENROLLMENT SITE
-  PREP-AP ENROLLMENT SITE (KAISER CLIENTS ONLY)



# Temporary Coverage

**Uninsured individuals, minors (12-17), and clients with confidentiality concerns can enroll at a PrEP-AP Temporary Coverage pharmacy to access PrEP or PEP at the pharmacy.**

- Coverage lasts for 30 days
- Regular PrEP-AP eligibility requirements do not apply
- Enrolled clients must see a [PrEP-AP Clinical Provider](#) for services

PrEP



2x in 24 months

PEP



13x in 12 months

# What is PrEP-AP Temporary Coverage?

- Expedient way for people to start PrEP or PEP
- Developed to compliment SB159
- Pharmacy staff enrolls their client in PrEP-AP Temporary Coverage to assist with cost of medication and services
- Available through pharmacies that contract with PrEP-AP
  - Must have a pharmacist trained to dispense PrEP and PEP
  - Must be a [MagellanRx ADAP/PrEP-AP network pharmacy](#)
  - Find Temporary Coverage Enrollment Sites on the [PrEP-AP site map](#)
- Enrolled clients must see a [PrEP-AP Clinical Provider](#) for services such as a medical office visit or testing

# Immediate Access

**Individuals 13 and older can enroll through the Immediate Access portal to access PrEP or PEP.**

- Coverage lasts for 30 days
- Regular PrEP-AP eligibility requirements do not apply
- Clients see a PrEP-AP Clinical Provider
  - Note: Insured clients must see a provider in their health plan's network
- Clients pick up their medications at a MagellanRx pharmacy

PrEP



2x in 24 months

PEP



13x in 12 months

# What is PrEP-AP Immediate Access?

- Expedient way for people to start PrEP or PEP
- Developed to address gaps in quick access to PrEP & PEP care
- Clients self-enroll in PrEP-AP Immediate Access through the [Immediate Access Portal](#) to assist with cost of medication and services
- After enrolling, clients will need to see a provider for a PrEP or PEP prescription
  - Insured clients must see a provider in their health plans network
  - All other Immediate Access clients must see a [PrEP-AP Clinical Provider](#)\*

\*Clients who already have a prescription for PrEP/PEP can pick up their medications at a [MagellanRx pharmacy](#)

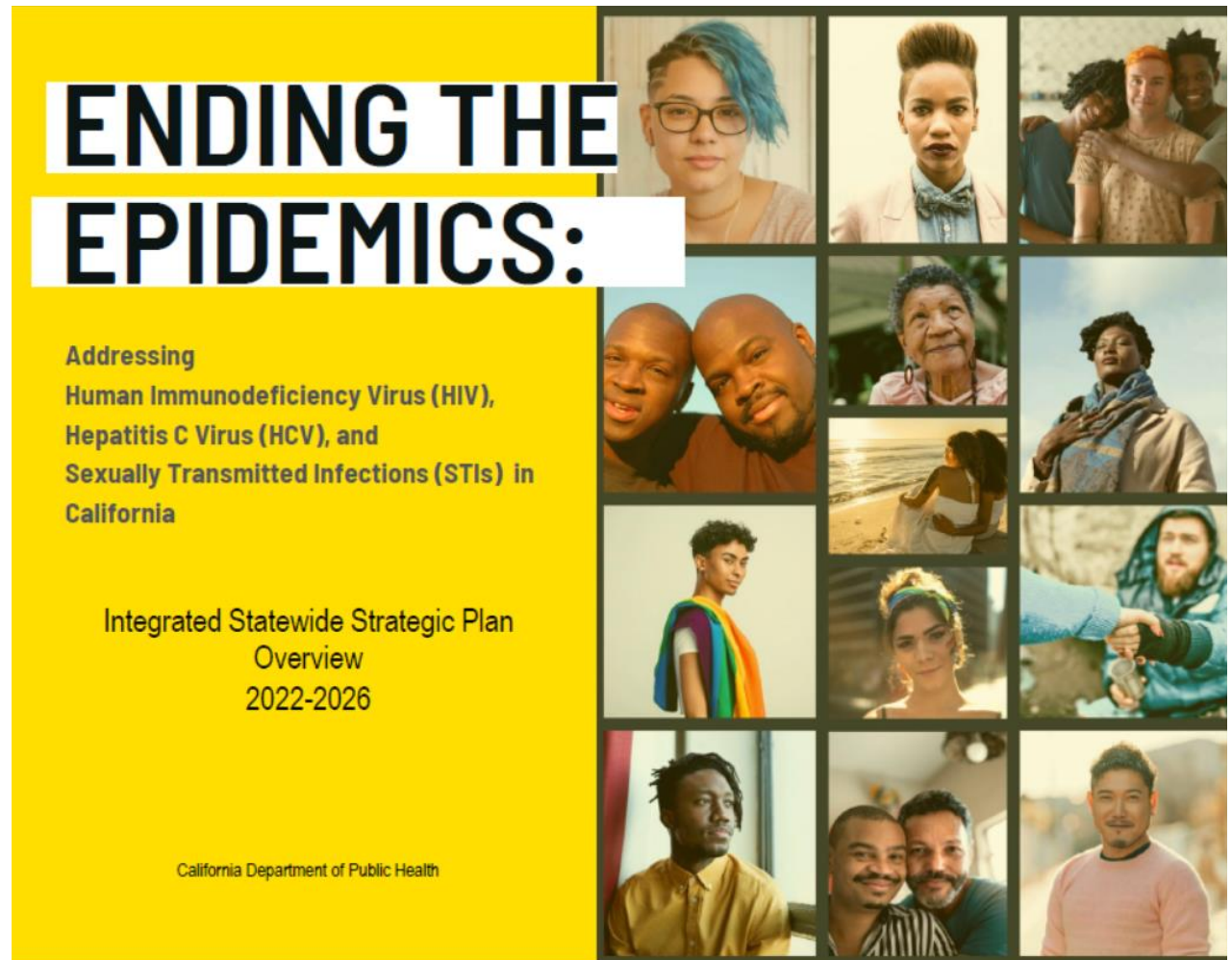
# Thank You!

## Questions?

- Follow our progress or get more information:

<https://tinyurl.com/CDPHStratPlan>

[Leroy.Blea@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Leroy.Blea@cdph.ca.gov)





# Rapid & Ready Navigation Program

October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Kim Bui, MPH**

*she/her/hers*

Section Manager – Direct Community Services

Division of HIV and STD Programs

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health



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# Rapid Navigation Team



**Francisco Armenta**  
(He/They/El)



**Ariel Garcia**  
(They/Them/El)

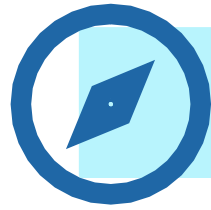


**EJ Schadegg**  
(She/They)

## What is the Rapid and Ready Program?

- The Rapid and Ready Program is a new effort that is part of the national Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) initiative
- The goal is to link clients to an HIV provider for immediate treatment, also known as “Rapid ART”

# Rapid and Ready Program Components



Rapid Navigators

Rapid Treatment Hubs

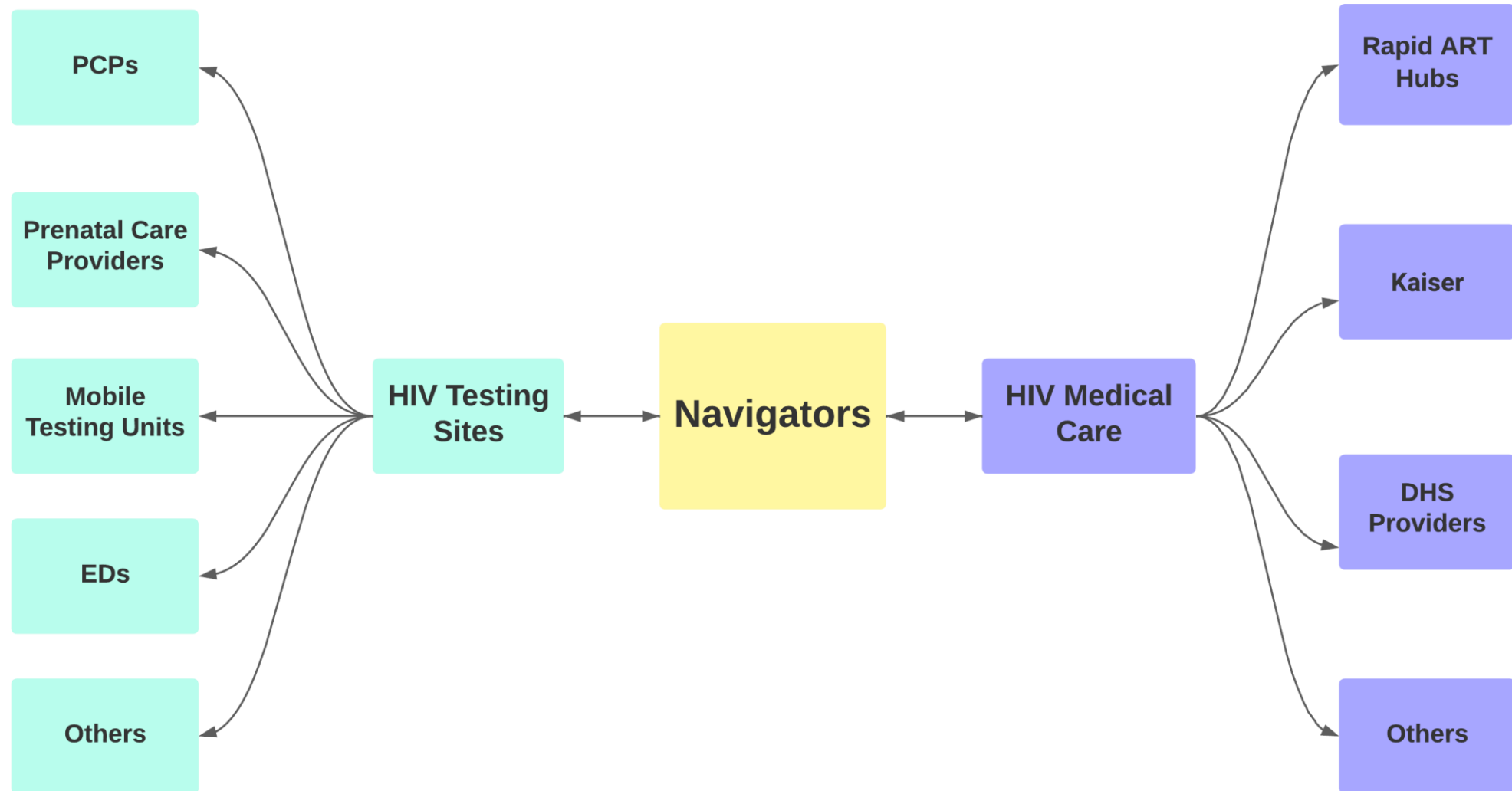


Capacity  
Assessment

Learning Collaborative and  
Coaching



# Rapid and Ready Referral Flow



## Who can receive the Rapid and Ready Navigation Program services?

- The program is intended for anyone who tests positive for HIV in LA County and is interested in seeing an HIV provider
- The program can also serve anyone with HIV who has recently relocated to or are wishing to relocate to LA County
- HIV testing sites, community clinics, medical centers, and emergency departments can use this service to seek assistance with linking clients to HIV care



# Rapid Navigation Services Offered

- Services include:
  - Field/home visits
  - Assistance with transportation
  - Assistance with insurance and benefits screening requirements
  - Accompanying clients to clinic visits
  - Psychosocial support
  - Referrals to resources including partner services
  - Ensuring successful transition of care

# Case Vignette #1

- Demographics: 36 y/o Latinx male, new diagnosis
- Referral source: Internal (DHSP) – Partner Services
- Referred 8/25, linked to care 8/30
- Case highlights:
  - Client needed treatment for both HIV and syphilis
  - Client had a partner who was also newly diagnosed with HIV
  - With strong point-of-contact at clinic, an appt was scheduled and streamlined within 3 business days for both the client and partner
  - Client was able to meet with the provider, receive ART, and receive syphilis tx

## Case Vignette #2

- Demographics: 22 y/o AA male, new diagnosis
- Referral source: DHSP Mobile Testing Unit
- Referred 5/19, linked to care 6/21
- Case highlights:
  - Initial appointment was scheduled for 6/3/22 but could only complete financial screening; could not see the provider or obtain meds due to Medi-Cal being connected to SF
  - Confusion around appointment scheduling and difficulties confirming appointments
  - Client was linked and obtained meds on 6/21/22, but had some difficulties with the refill process
  - R&R closed the case once client reached undetectable status

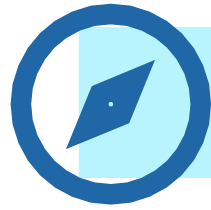
## Keys to Success

- Having designated clinic point-of-contact specific to HIV linkage
- Good communication between Navs and clinic teams
- Appointment availability that meets patient needs
- Welcoming front-desk staff who are knowledgeable about rapid program and goals
- Having meds or starter packs issued at initial visits

## Barriers + Challenges

- No point-of-contact and unclear process for accessing rapid visit
- Appointment availability > 7 business days
- Meds/starter packs not always issued at initial visit
  - Rotating/on-call providers, not all providers trained on expected practice
- Front desk staff not aware of Rapid program or not welcoming

# Rapid and Ready Program Components



Rapid Navigators

Rapid Treatment Hubs



Capacity  
Assessment

Learning Collaborative and  
Coaching





## How to access the Rapid and Ready Navigation Program

- To access the program, providers and the community can call toll-free **833-351-2298** or email [rapid@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:rapid@ph.lacounty.gov) to connect with a member of the Rapid Navigation Team
- Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM



**Need to see an HIV Provider?**

**Call the Rapid and Ready Navigation Team**

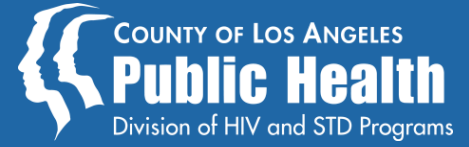
**833-351-2298**



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# Thank you!