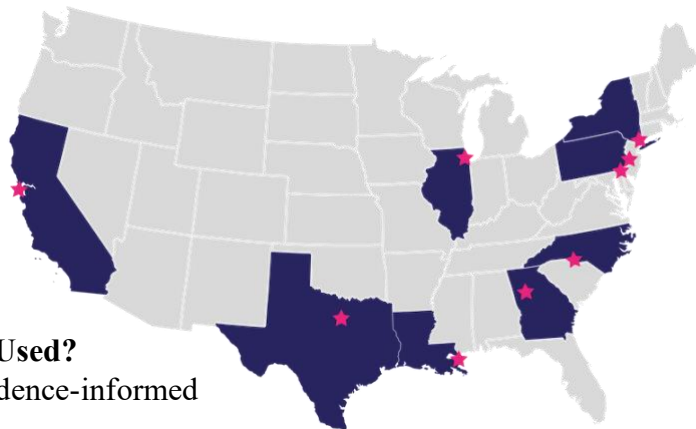


Black Women First Initiative

What is the Black Women First Initiative?

- The Black Women First Initiative is a Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part F: Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) initiative that supports the design, implementation, and evaluation of the use of *bundled interventions* to improve HIV care and treatment coordination for cisgender and transgender Black women.
- The Initiative funds 12 demonstration sites in Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. (EHE) initiative priority jurisdictions.



What are Bundled Interventions & Why are They Used?

- *Bundled interventions* are a package of evidence-informed practices.
- When used together, bundled interventions may produce better health outcomes than when practices are delivered separately.
- The Black Women First Initiative is implementing bundled interventions to address challenges particular to Black cisgender and transgender women with HIV through meaningful inclusion, cultural responsiveness, and cultural sensitivity.

What Bundled Interventions are being Implemented?

- Demonstration sites tailor and implement a minimum of two interventions. These include:
 - Enhanced patient navigation, case management, or peer engagement
 - Use of trauma-informed care interventions
 - Red carpet care experience
 - Self-efficacy, health literacy and resiliency interventions
 - Stigma reduction interventions
 - Interventions to address intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual violence, or behavioral health needs

Client Characteristics 773 clients		
Gender	Age	Race/Ethnicity*
82% Cisgender women 16% Transgender women 2% Other	11.5% Under 30 years 47.2% Between 30-49 years 40.9% Older than 50 years	92% Black/African American 6% Black-Hispanic/Latina 1% Multiracial 2% Black and Other**

*Percentages do not add up to 100 percent due to rounding

**Black and Other includes Hawaiian Pacific Islander, Native American, African or other

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How are Black Women Informing the Initiative’s Work?

- The Evaluation and Technical Assistance Provider (ETAP) has established an Advisory Council comprised of Black cisgender and transgender women, including women with HIV.
- The Advisory Council meets regularly to discuss the Initiative, provide leadership training to demonstration sites, and facilitate conversations about race, gender, and HIV status.
- Demonstration sites are working to integrate Black women more formally into their practices through leadership councils and advisory boards, offering leadership trainings, and developing racial equity plans for their organizations.

Publications

- The ETAP has worked with demonstration sites to co-author 12 issue briefs and academic journal articles, including [Using Advisory Boards to Enhance and Implement Interventions for Black Women](#) and [Strategies to Support Women in Black Communities During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). Future resources and publications will include a peer-reviewed journal supplement, demonstration site implementation manuals, tips sheets, and *PhotoVoice* participatory arts projects.

Snapshot: Successes & Impact		
<p>University of California San Francisco’s HERS+ Program: 69 clients served</p>	<p>AIDS Foundation Chicago’s Women Evolving Program: 39 clients served</p>	<p>City of Philadelphia Department of Health’s SHE Program: 46 clients served</p>
<p>Challenge The Patient Leadership and Advocacy Group (PLAG) was struggling to remain engaged due to mental and physical health challenges.</p> <p>Response After thoughtfully responding to the needs of its members, HERS+ temporarily shifted the focus of the PLAG from planning and leadership to a support group structure.</p> <p>Impact Following the change to better support the wellbeing of group members, one member who had dropped out has re-engaged, three new members have joined, and the PLAG has resumed monthly meetings.</p>	<p>Challenge A client needed help from the peer navigator and corrections case manager as she was re-adjusting to the community after 15 years of incarceration.</p> <p>Response Staff provided support as the client adjusted to societal changes and helped her navigate respective health and social support systems.</p> <p>Impact “After spending 15 years in prison, I was finally released with nowhere to go. But thanks to my Peer Navigator and Corrections Case Manager ...I now have a job, temporary housing, a cellphone, and my license to drive. If it was not for them taking their time to help me re-adjust, I do not know where I would be.” –Women Evolving Program Client</p>	<p>Challenge A client was experiencing high stress because of hurricane Ian making landfall while she was visiting Myrtle Beach, SC.</p> <p>Response She was able to utilize the stress management skills she learned from the Resilience and Self-efficacy intervention facilitated by the SHE Program and its partner site, Prime Time Sister Circles (PTSC).</p> <p>Impact “Before PTSC and the SHE program, I felt sad and hopeless. When I was caught in Hurricane Ian, I really thought I was going to die...but I kept relying on my faith and kept encouraging myself and others that were with me in the storm. Now I feel very blessed and grateful to be alive and I am more hopeful than ever.” –SHE Program Client</p>

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