

# Incorporating Hepatitis C in Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Planning

*Health Department Challenges and Lessons Learned in Aligning  
Resources, Strategies, and Services to End the Epidemics*

January 29, 2020

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EDT



**INTEGRATED HIV/AIDS PLANNING**  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER



# About the IHAP TAC

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## SUPPORTS

Ryan White HIV/AIDS  
Program Parts A & B  
recipients and  
planning bodies



## CONDUCTS

national and targeted  
training and technical  
assistance activities



## FOCUSES

on integrated planning  
including implementation  
and monitoring of  
Integrated HIV  
Prevention and  
Care Plans



# Support and Tools Available

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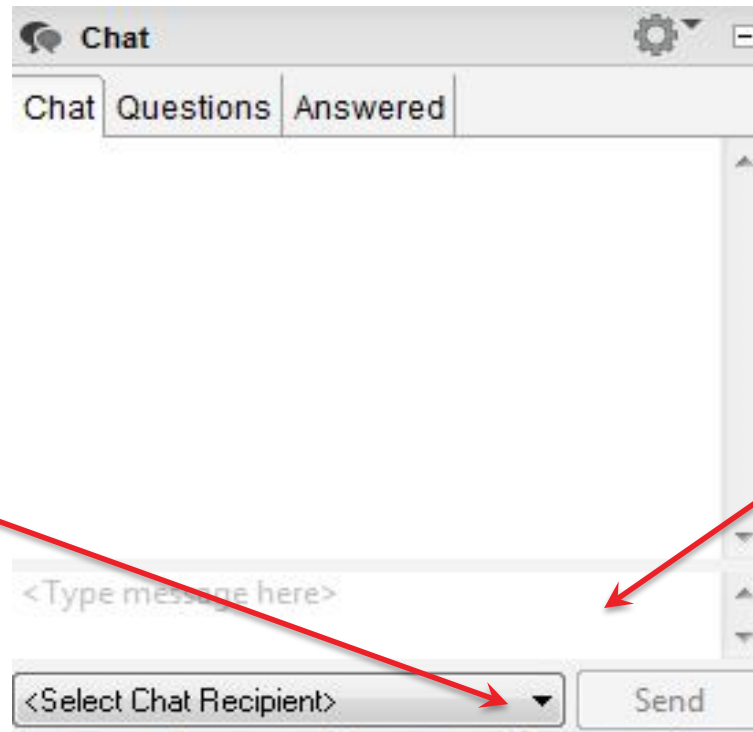
- Plan activity implementation
- Communicating progress on plan activities to stakeholders
- Engaging community in integrated planning efforts
- Monitoring and evaluating plan activities
- Integrating care and prevention in health departments
- Optimizing resource allocation
- Aligning plan activities with other efforts

# Chat Feature

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If you have questions during the call, please use the chat feature. To do so:

Use the drop down arrow to send your comments and/or questions to “Broadcast to All”



Chat comments and/or questions here, and please indicate which jurisdiction you're from.

# Webinar Objectives

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Following the webinar, participants will be able to:

- Describe rationale and strategic framework for incorporating hepatitis C virus (HCV) services in state Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plans.
- Identify strategies for inclusion of HCV services and programs to better address community need, leverage resources, improve efficiencies, and enhance coordination of service delivery.
- Discuss methods for monitoring and evaluating HCV services as part of the integrated plans.

# Today's Presenters

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**Marissa Tonelli**

Director of Health Systems  
Capacity Building  
HealthHIV



**Thaddeus Pham**

Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator  
Harm Reduction Services Branch  
Hawaii Department of Health

# Incorporating HCV in HIV Prevention & Care Programs

**Marissa Tonelli**

HealthHIV  
IHAP TAC



# Incorporation of HCV Services in HIV Programming Can Support

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- Maximizing federal and state resources (lower costs)
  - Cost-effective to address both HCV and other co-occurring conditions
- Eliminating duplicative services
- Addressing overlapping risk factors and risk populations (e.g. HIV+, people who inject drugs (PWID), men who have sex with men (MSM))
  - Focus on patient needs rather than service areas
  - Address growing rates of infectious diseases, including perinatal HIV/HCV infections, due to the opioid epidemic
- Bringing new partners together



# Rationale for Integrated HCV Services

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## Client-focused!

- Focus on the client behaviors and needs
- Provide seamless access to comprehensive services tailored to each client
- Maximize clients' access to services and reduce missed opportunities to serve clients
- Shared skillsets across health department staff and positions

# Opportunities for HCV Service Integration

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- Service-level integration of HCV screening, navigation and linkage to treatment at STI clinics, HIV testing programs (including outreach/venue-based testing), HIV case management, etc.
- Provider outreach/education, for example, among those already providing HIV care
- Expanding public health staff roles
  - Cross-training staff (e.g. AIDS Education Training Centers)
  - Updating position expectations and responsibilities (e.g. Hawaii's HIV counselors)

# Opportunities for HCV Service Integration, Cont.

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- Leveraging programs reaching at-risk population, such as syringe services programs, drug-user health initiatives, and opioid response (e.g. OR-HOPE in Oregon)
- Establish and reinforce partnerships internally across programs and externally across organizations (e.g. HIV/HCV screening in behavioral health settings)

# Barriers to HCV Service Integration

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- Siloed systems of prevention and care (e.g. incompatible, siloed systems of services and data)
- Lack of flexibility in use of federal HIV funding (i.e. unable to treat mono-infected)
- Limited surveillance data, especially at the local level
- Lack of resources to cross train staff and/or limited staff time
- HCV treatment access challenges
- HCV eligibility challenges

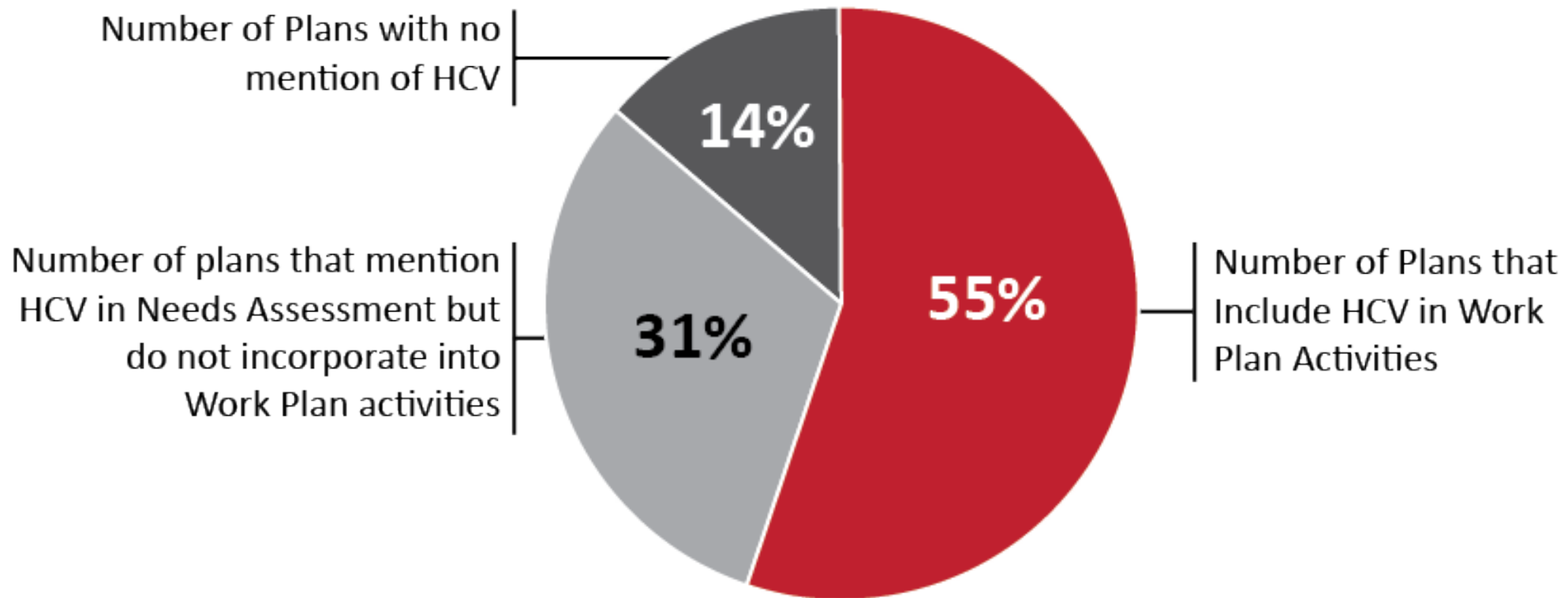
# **2017-2021 Planning for Incorporating HCV Services**



# Over half of jurisdictions include HCV activities in work plan

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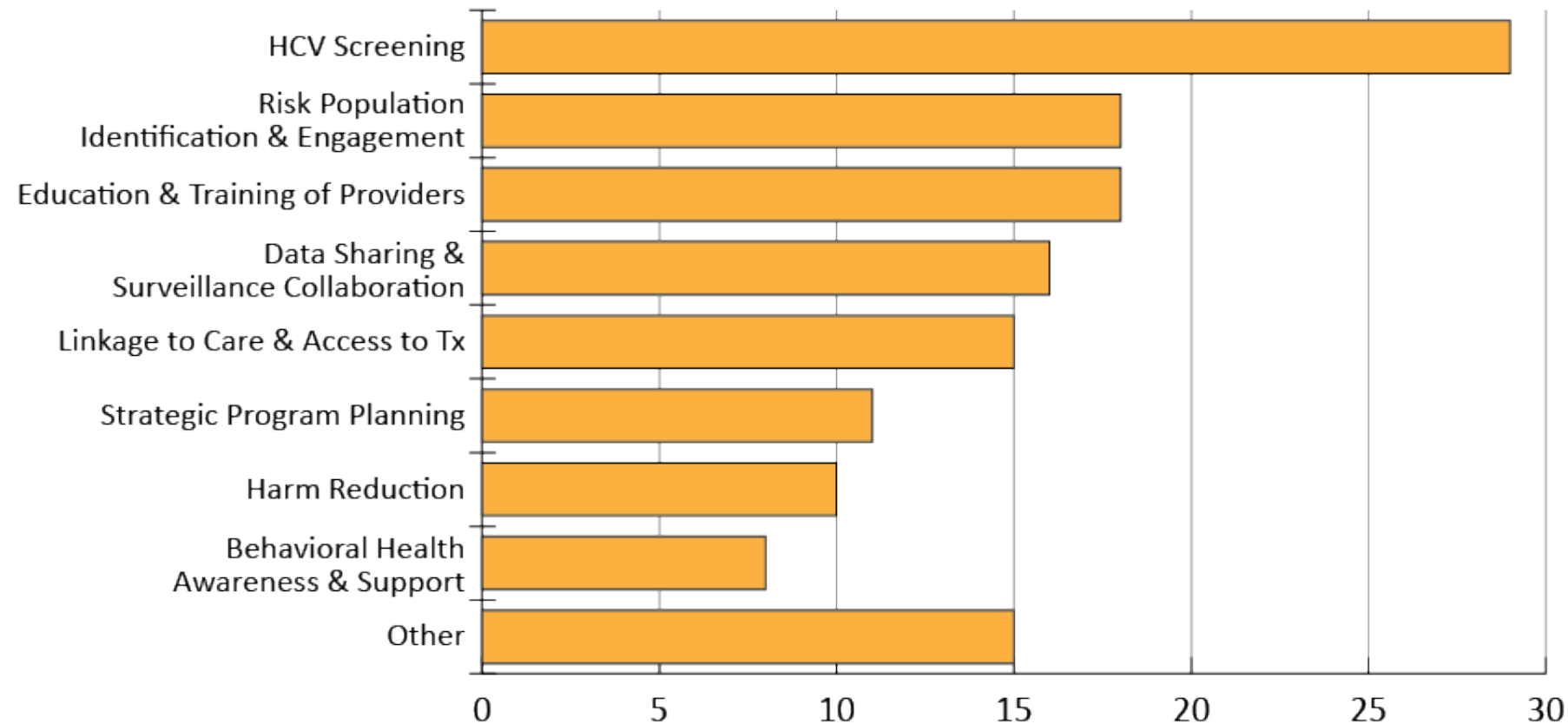
## 2017-2021 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plans, n=74



# Health Departments are incorporating HCV through the following service areas

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## HCV Activity Key Themes



**Note:**  
Categories are listed in order of frequency (besides “Other”), e.g. HCV screening was most frequently cited in IPs

# Poll

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## How is your health department integrating HCV services?

- HCV Screening
- Risk Population Identification and Engagement
- Education and training of providers
- Data sharing and surveillance collaboration
- Linkage to care and access to care
- Strategic program planning
- Harm reduction
- Behavioral health awareness and support
- Other – chat in.



# Levels of Integration – Tier 1

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## Short-term, most feasible implementation

- HCV screening and education for people with HIV (e.g. one-time or annually)
- HIV/HCV screening and education for all PWID
- HCV screening and education in all health department HIV/STD programs
- Coordinate HIV, STD, hepatitis screening for MSM
- Expand and maintain relationship between HIV, STD, and HCV programs and substance abuse prevention and treatment programs within HD

# Levels of Integration – Tier 2

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**Longer-term implementation, may require foundation-level training among staff, may require additional funding or political buy-in**

- Develop HIV, STD, and HCV cross-training protocols for staff
  - Educate HIV case managers about options for HCV treatment and cure if co-infected
- Support comprehensive AIDS Drug Assistance Program formulary that includes access to HCV treatment
  - Recruit people with HIV co-infected with HCV into HCV treatment
- Work with external partners to facilitate HCV screening (e.g. corrections, behavioral health)
  - Concurrently offer HCV screening in all HIV/STD testing venues or provide referrals
- Implement harm reduction models that incorporate HCV screening (e.g. syringe services programs [SSPs], safe injection sites)

# Levels of Integration – Tier 3

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**Longer-term implementation, likely requires cross-trained staff or working group, likely requires additional funding and political/community buy-in**

- Design specialized outreach programs to engage young PWID in HIV/HCV prevention and testing
- Increase co-location of services for HIV and STD testing and care, hepatitis A and B vaccination, and HCV testing and linkage to care
- Train HIV providers and medical case managers to identify mental health and substance abuse co-morbidities jeopardizing access to HCV treatment
- Expand services provided at SSPs to include distribution of home HIV/HCV test kits

# Poll

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**What is your jurisdiction's level of integrating HCV services?**

- Tier 1
- Tier 2
- Tier 3

# Health Department Models for Incorporating HCV



# HCV Integration in Wisconsin's Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan Development

- At least one HCV staff/team member was engaged on each of the four planning work groups
  - Ensured that HCV and harm reduction were part of the plan's goals, objectives, and strategies
- HCV staff regularly attend the Wisconsin Statewide Action Planning Group to share information on HCV services/programs, HCV epidemiology, and drug user health
- Staff turnover has been one challenge facing the planning process

# Combining Virginia's HIV and Hepatitis Testing Programs

- Developed common data collection and quality assurance methods, e.g. HCV Quality Assurance Manual
- Integrated contract administration responsibilities to facilitate addition of HCV testing to existing HIV testing contracts, including combined site visits
- Merged the Viral Hepatitis Program with the HIV Testing Team
- Created better knowledge-sharing mechanisms

# Intersect to Integrate

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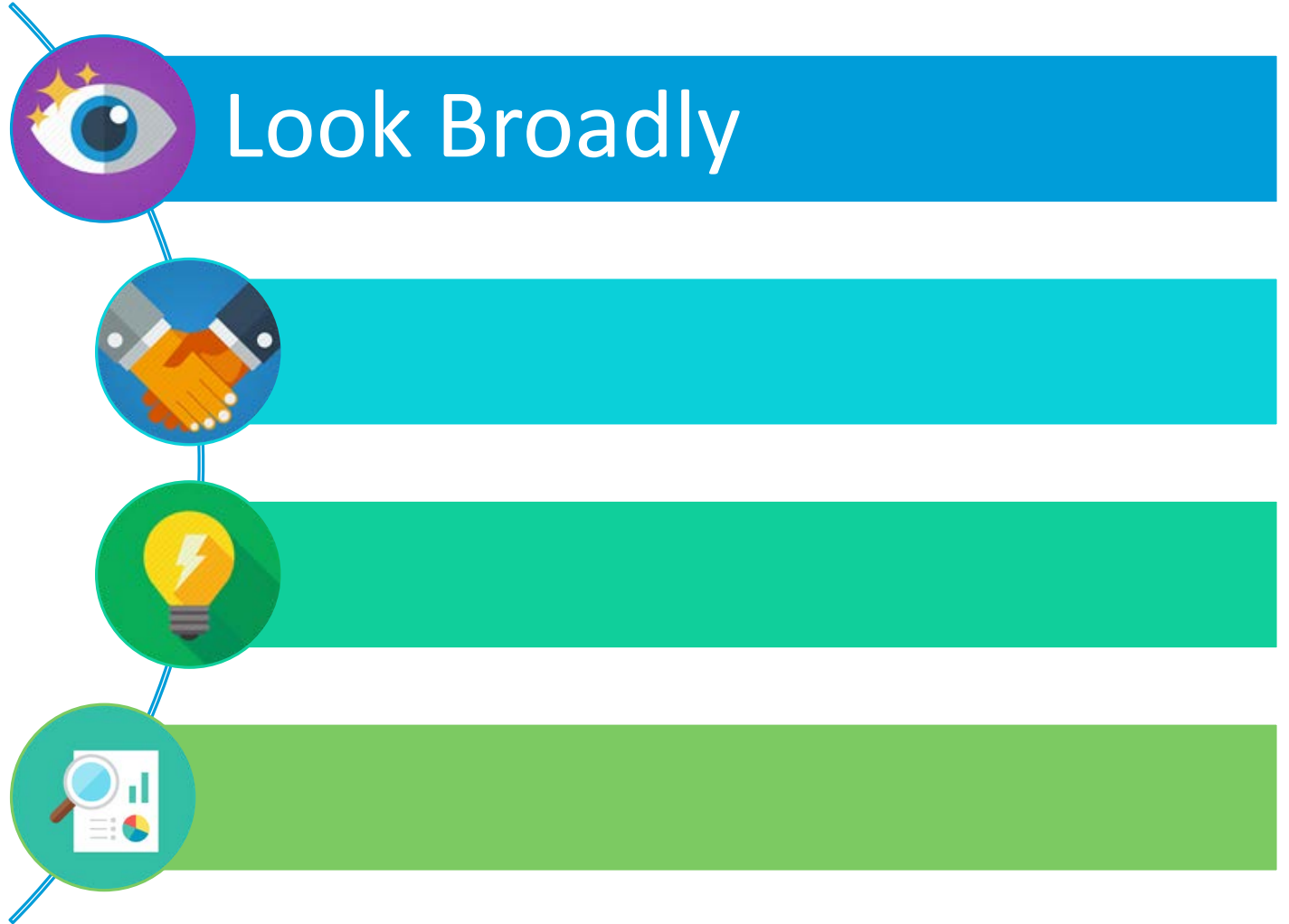
HEPATITIS AND HIV CO-PROGRAMMING IN HAWAII





# Intersectional Framework

Things are related to other things



# Harm Reduction Services Branch

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# Harm Reduction Services Branch

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## Mission

To empower people in Hawaii to make responsible health decisions for themselves and others by:

- Providing statewide leadership and coordination for the prevention, treatment, care and surveillance of infections transmitted primarily through sexual contact or injection drug use; and
- Assuring the accessibility and delivery of client-centered, non-judgmental, and comprehensive services with the spirit of aloha and respect



# Integration

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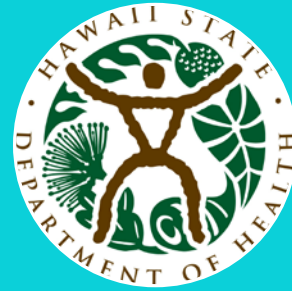
IMPLEMENTING HEPATITIS SERVICES

# Planning and Policies

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Hepatitis



HIV



Opioids



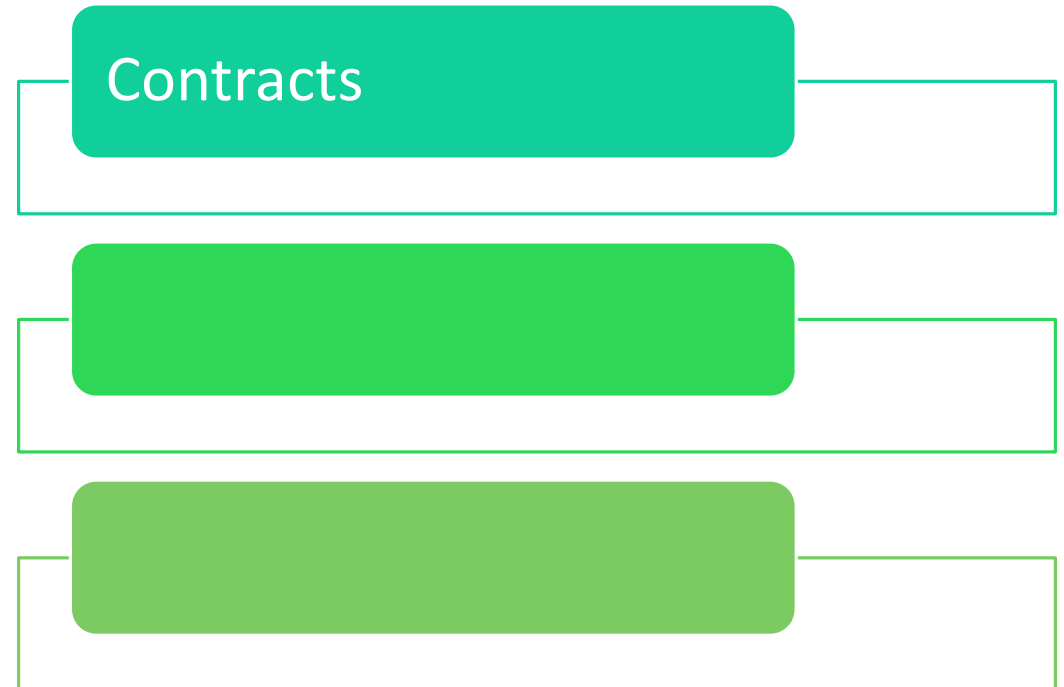
# Alignment of Services

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## HIV CONTRACTS



## HIV FUNDS



# Training and Development

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DOH

- New Staff
- Equity Programs

OTL

- State Certification
- Content/Skills

CME

- Conferences
- Summits





# Role of Community

Hep Free Hawaii is a community-based coalition of over 90 partner agencies, dedicated to increasing awareness of and access to hepatitis services in Hawaii.

- Advocacy
- Care Coordination
- Education
- Awareness

[www.hepfreehawaii.org](http://www.hepfreehawaii.org)



# Lessons Learned

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FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABILITY



# Challenges

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## SILOS

Funding Streams

Grant Requirements

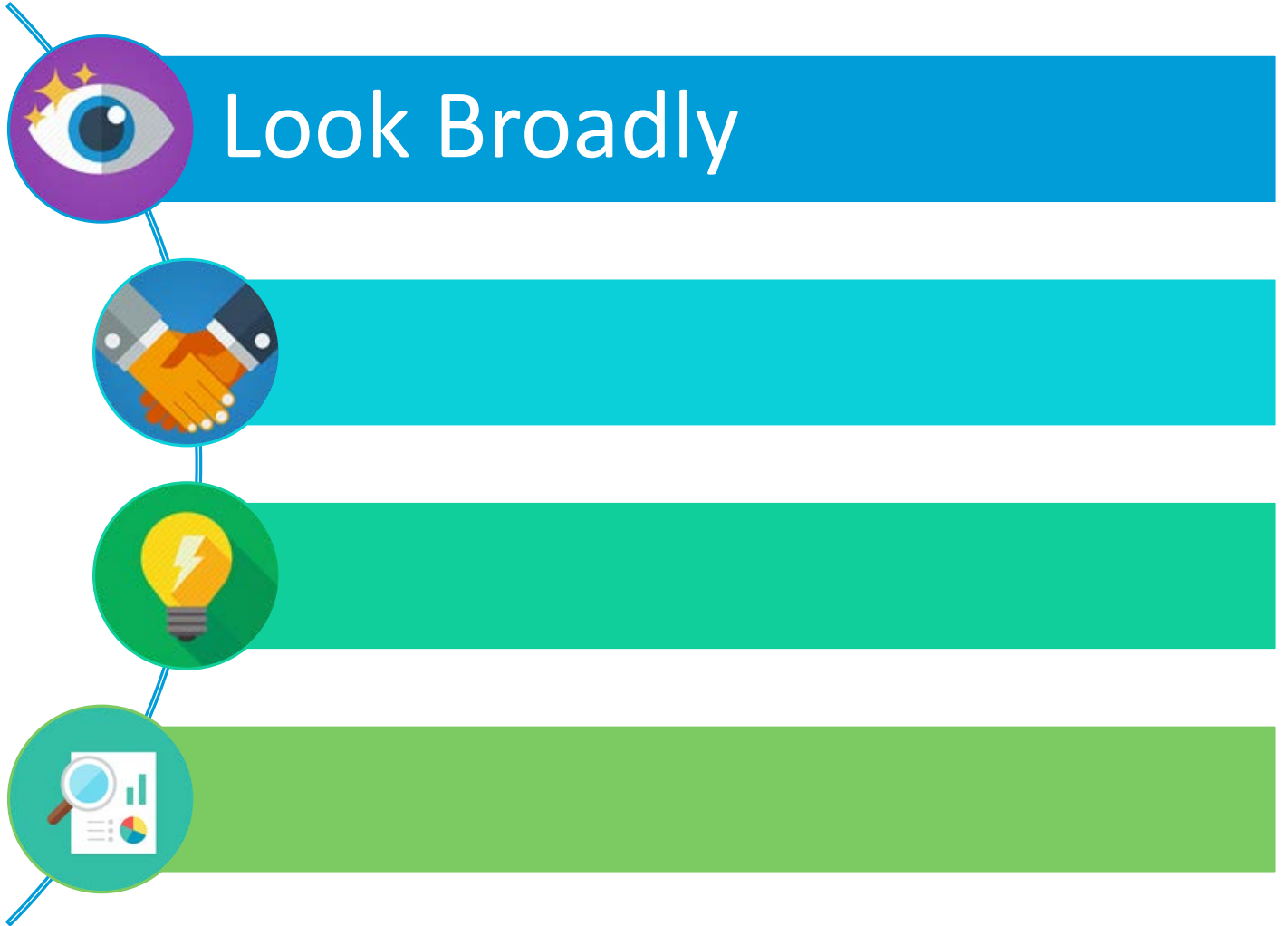
Staffing Parity

Surveillance

Buy In

# Intersectional Framework

Things are related to other things



# Next Steps

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## PROJECTS

Quality improvement

Micro elimination

Street-based care

## INTERSECTIONS

Drug user health

Sexuality and Gender

Homelessness



# Mahalo

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# Questions

Please chat your questions into the Chat Box.



# IHAP TAC Webinars

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- Access our archived and upcoming webinars  
[www.targetHIV.org/ihap/webinars](http://www.targetHIV.org/ihap/webinars)





**INTEGRATED HIV/AIDS PLANNING**  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

# Thank you!

**Contact us at [ihaptac@jsi.com](mailto:ihaptac@jsi.com)!**

Obtain more information, join our mailing list, request TA, or share your experiences or resources.

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