

RETENTION IN CARE

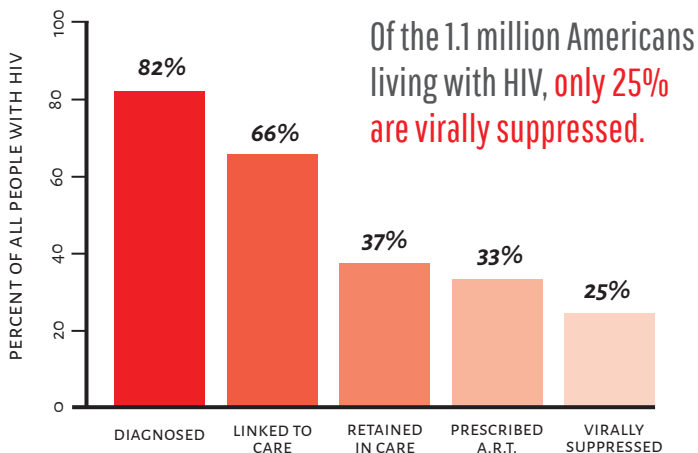
Grants at a Glance



THE AIDS UNITED RETENTION IN CARE INITIATIVE

AIDS United's Retention in Care (RiC) Initiative is a three-year partnership with the MAC AIDS Fund to identify, document and evaluate innovative, emerging or promising program models for improving retention in care. The initiative uses a national evaluation framework that works hand-in-hand with local evaluators to document the ability of programs to improve individual health, affect systems change and measure cost effectiveness.

RiC grantees focus on populations that often experience some of the worst HIV-related health in the United States. The grantees implement programs to address a multitude of barriers to retention in care addressing one of the largest drop-off points along the HIV Care Continuum as illustrated in this graph:



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Today's HIV/AIDS epidemic [fact sheet]. December 2013. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/docs/HIVFactSheets/TodaysEpidemic-508.pdf>.

New research documents the dramatic impact viral suppression has not only on extending the lives of those living with HIV, but also in substantially reducing new transmission. Thus, the need to improve along the care continuum plays a critical role in both care and prevention.

GRANTEE PROFILE

BOOM!Health



AGENCY OVERVIEW

BOOM!Health delivers a full range of prevention, syringe access, health coordination, behavioral health, housing, legal, advocacy and wellness services to more than 8,000 of the hardest-to-reach individuals in the Bronx, a borough of New York City. BOOM!Health strengthens efforts to remove barriers to accessing medical care, with particular emphasis on HIV and viral hepatitis prevention and care services. BOOM!Health enables New Yorkers living with and at highest risk for illness, addiction, homelessness and poverty to realize their full potential by integrating client-centered services within a "one-stop shop" model to create a seamless continuum of prevention and care. The one-stop shop model is fully comprehensive and includes barber services and meals in addition to medical care, case management, syringe exchange, support groups, pharmacy and behavior health care. To offer services and support that will create sustainable engagement, BOOM!Health works toward service provision that is user-friendly, respectful and welcoming to populations who often have had negative experiences in clinical settings.

BRONX HEALTH CONNECT

The Bronx Health Connect (BHC) program is an innovative harm reduction approach designed to maximize effectiveness along key points in the HIV treatment engagement cascade, including linkage to care, retention in care, and access and adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART). BHC assists people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) by improving entry into and consistent retention in high-quality HIV care through the use of harm reduction outreach strategies and health navigation. A second goal is to improve adherence to ART by providing adherence tools that are culturally competent within the context of patients' lives, enhancing education and counseling. The unique needs of PLWHA with mental health and substance use disorders as well as homeless and marginally housed individuals are addressed in the project design.

The BHC project's primary components unify interlocking evidence-based programmatic elements into a comprehensive retention-in-care model. Health navigation, coupled with treatment adherence and harm reduction outreach strategies, are core functions of BOOM!Health's approach. Because of RiC funding, BOOM!Health has been able to integrate additional wraparound services—including care coordination, patient-level data (such as CD4 and viral load counts, other lab results and appointment information), integrated care planning, interdisciplinary case conferencing, open access medical and behavioral health appointments for project participants and project evaluation approved by institutional review board (IRB). Additionally, a local pharmacy provides on-site comprehensive medication management, adherence counseling, waived co-payments and free delivery.

Program Contact

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ABOUT THE



The M-A-C AIDS Fund, the heart and soul of M-A-C Cosmetics, was established in 1994 to support men, women and children affected by HIV/AIDS globally. MAF is a pioneer in HIV/AIDS funding, providing financial support to organizations working with underserved regions and populations. Recently recognized by Funders Concerned About AIDS as the top corporate giver in the arena and the number one philanthropic funder of domestic U.S. HIV/AIDS work, MAF is committed to addressing the link between poverty and HIV/AIDS by supporting diverse organizations around the world that provide a wide range of services to people living with HIV/AIDS. To date, MAF has raised more than \$315 million (U.S.) exclusively through the sale of M-A-C's VIVA GLAM Lipstick and Lipglass, donating 100 percent of the sale price to fight HIV/AIDS. For more information, visit www.macaidsfund.org.