

The AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETCs) play an essential and unique role in ending the HIV epidemic in the United States. AETCs are building the capacity of the health care workforce to address the goals of the Ending the Epidemic Initiative. As the national educational arm of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, the AETCs provide training, clinical consultation, capacity building, and technical assistance across the US and its jurisdictions and territories. The AETCs provide services in the hardest hit metropolitan areas, counties and states, as well as hard-to-reach rural areas reaching about 100,000 health professionals annually on the evolving range of prevention, treatment interventions and systems change. AETCs are fundamental to ending the epidemic and key to all four pillars of the initiative that include:

Diagnosing all persons with HIV as early as possible after infection:

- Building capacity to integrate HIV testing into routine primary care and other health and community settings;
- Training health care teams on the latest in HIV testing, diagnosis, linkage to care, and stigma elimination;
- Providing technical assistance and training on stigma-reduction to improve care;
- Providing clinical consultation and support to facilitate immediate linkage to HIV care.

Treating persons with HIV infection rapidly and effectively to achieve sustained viral suppression:

- Preparing providers and clinics to test for HIV and implement immediate treatment;
- Providing continuous treatment decision support for providers to effect best clinical outcomes;
- Translating the latest clinical findings and best practices into health care practices;
- Disseminating and supporting the implementation of best practices and evidence-informed interventions;
- Educating providers on substance use and mental disorders that impact engagement and retention in HIV care;
- Providing mentorship and consultation services through the AETC National Clinician Consultation Center and regional AETCs to ensure that clinicians provide appropriate HIV care and treatment to achieve viral suppression and reduce HIV transmission risk.
- Providing free, self-directed and workforce development resources through the AETC National Coordinating Resource Center including the online AETC National HIV and HIV/HCV Co-infection Curricula.
- Working with health profession schools to increase HIV care continuum education of pre-licensed professionals.
- Facilitating systems change to create more responsive HIV healthcare programs.

Protecting persons at risk for HIV, using proven prevention interventions by:

- Training clinicians on providing post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP);
- Providing consultation on Treatment as Prevention, substance use, PrEP, PEP, and prevention of perinatal transmission through the AETC National Clinician Consultation Center and regional AETCs;
- Providing training and technical assistance on harm reduction strategies including syringe exchange;
- Providing training and technical assistance to increase HIV and hepatitis C screening according to CDC guidelines;
- Developing and diffusing innovative models for providing PrEP and PEP;
- Providing training on implicit bias and stigma reduction to reduce disparities in PrEP uptake and PEP provision;
- Educating clinicians on the importance of the finding that “undetectable equals untransmittable” (U=U).

Responding rapidly to detect and respond to growing HIV clusters and prevent new HIV infections:

- Adapting education, training, and consultation in a rapid and effective manner to address local and regional shifts in HIV epidemiology and care needs;
- Conducting outreach to clinical sites in newly-identified target areas to implement routine testing;
- Providing prompt and targeted response for training and consultation needs related to HIV outbreaks;
- Engaging communities to prevent individual and clusters of HIV cases through targeted training and dissemination of proven behavioral and biomedical prevention approaches;
- Providing ongoing workforce capacity building and developing tailored interventions to improve health system capacity to prevent and respond to outbreaks.

The AETCs are leaders in capacity building to recruit, train, and maintain a culturally and clinically competent, committed public health and clinical professional workforce to help realize HIV elimination through coordinated and integrated prevention and treatment efforts.