

GOAL 1: PREVENT NEW HIV INFECTIONS



OBJECTIVES

- Increase awareness of HIV
- Increase knowledge of HIV status
- Expand and improve implementation of effective prevention interventions, including treatment as prevention, PrEP, PEP, and SSPs, and develop new options
- Increase the capacity of health care delivery systems, public health, and the health workforce to prevent and diagnose HIV

DEFINITIONS USED IN THIS PLAN

<p>Goals: Broad aspirations that enable a plan's vision to be realized</p>	<p>Performance Metrics: Measurable data used to track progress, successes, and challenges</p>	<p>Strategies: Choices about how best to accomplish objectives</p>	<p>Activities: Specific steps that will take place to implement the strategies and achieve the plan's goals</p>	<p>Objectives: Changes, outcomes, and impact a plan is trying to achieve</p>
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Strategies for Implementation by the New Haven Ryan White Part A Program

STRATEGY 1.1		Adopt the Status Neutral Prevention and Treatment Cycle (SNPTC) as the EMA's framework for rapid linkage to HIV, hepatitis, and STI care, or PrEP/PEP initiation (see Appendix 2 for a description of this framework).
Year 1	Activity	Collaborate with community partners to align prevention and care services to support the SNPTC as an EMA-wide framework.
	Lead Entities	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program, Greater Hartford Ryan White Part A Program, Connecticut State Department of Health HIV Prevention and Care Programs
	Performance Metric	Implementation evaluation completed. Year 2 SNPTC transition plan created.
Year 2	Activity	Execute the transition plan and establish SNPTC in the EMA.
	Lead Entities	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program, Greater Hartford Ryan White Part A Program, Connecticut State Department of Health HIV Prevention and Care Programs
	Performance Metric	SNPTC established by February 29, 2024.

STRATEGY 1.2		Implement an Undetectable=Untransmittable (U=U) educational initiative for Ryan White clients.
Year 1	Activity	Collaborate with community stakeholders to inform the development and implementation of an educational initiative promoting HIV viral suppression as high-impact HIV prevention (U=U) to Ryan White clients.
	Lead Entities	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program, Greater Hartford Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	Campaign implementation and evaluation completed.
Year 1	Activity	Collaborate with other HIV Prevention and Care Programs to integrate U=U messaging into media initiatives, educational materials, and other consumer-centric activities. Add annual U=U client education to the monitoring tools for Medical Case Management and Outpatient Ambulatory Health Care.
	Lead Entities	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program, Greater Hartford Ryan White Part A Program, Connecticut State Department of Health HIV Prevention and Care Programs
	Performance Metric	U=U messaging is a standardized component of all HIV prevention and care media and materials.

Recommended Strategies for Community Implementation

STRATEGY 1.3		Complete detailing activities to increase the number of medical providers offering PrEP and PEP services in geographic areas with high HIV incidence.
Year 1	Activity	Complete at least five PrEP/PEP detailing sessions with medical providers offering services within geographic areas with high incidence of HIV.
	Recommended Lead Entity	Connecticut State Department of Health, HIV Prevention Program
	Performance Metric	At least five detailing sessions are completed by February 28, 2023.
Year 2	Activity	Complete at least five PrEP/PEP detailing sessions with medical providers offering services within geographic areas with high incidence of HIV.
	Recommended Lead Entity	Connecticut State Department of Health, HIV Prevention Program
	Performance Metric	At least five detailing sessions are completed by February 29, 2024.

STRATEGY 1.4		Increase the number of entities providing HIV, hepatitis, and STI testing in geographic areas of high HIV incidence, including non-traditional partners such as walk-in labs, pharmacies, and mobile testing services.
Year 1	Activity	Recruit at least five new entities to provide HIV, hepatitis, and STI testing within geographic areas with high incidence of HIV.
	Recommended Lead Entity	Connecticut State Department of Health, HIV Prevention Program
	Performance Metric	At least five new entities are providing HIV testing services by February 28, 2023.
Year 2	Activity	Recruit at least five new entities to provide HIV, hepatitis, and STI testing within geographic areas with high incidence of HIV.
	Recommended Lead Entity	Connecticut State Department of Health, HIV Prevention Program
	Performance Metric	At least five detailing sessions are completed by February 29, 2024.

STRATEGY 1.5		Develop and implement a community-informed PrEP/PEP media initiative, with specific messaging for young Black and Hispanic MSM, Transgender women and men, and Black women.
Planning & Preparation	Activity	Collaborate with community stakeholders to inform the development and implementation of a PrEP/PEP media campaign.
	Recommended Lead Entity	Connecticut State Department of Health HIV Prevention Program
	Performance Metric	At least two community listening sessions are presented.
Year 1	Activity	Develop and implement a PrEP/PEP media campaign using traditional and digital formats. Develop relationships with local influencers, community leaders, and other partners to support messaging on digital platforms. Create and distribute a social media tool kit to community organizations. Establish a performance monitoring and evaluation plan.
	Recommended Lead Entity	Connecticut State Department of Health, HIV Prevention Program
	Performance Metric	Presentation of the media campaign. Social media tool kit produced and distributed to community organizations. Campaign performance is assessed using the performance and monitoring plan.
Year 2	Activity	Collaborate with community stakeholders to evaluate the Year 1 campaign. Make revisions as needed and continue the campaign in Year 2.
	Recommended Lead Entity	Connecticut State Department of Health, HIV Prevention Program
	Performance Metric	Presentation of the Year 2 media campaign. Campaign performance assessed using the performance and monitoring plan.



GOAL 2: IMPROVE HIV-RELATED HEALTH OUTCOMES OF PEOPLE WITH HIV

OBJECTIVES

- Link people to medical care immediately after their HIV diagnosis and provide low-barrier access to HIV treatment
- Identify, engage, or re-engage people with HIV who are not in care or not virally suppressed
- Increase retention in care and adherence to HIV treatment to achieve and maintain long-term viral suppression
- Increase the capacity of health care delivery systems, public health, and the health workforce to serve people with HIV

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Strategies for Implementation by the New Haven Ryan White Part A Program

STRATEGY 2.1	The NHFFRWP will establish a rapid linkage to care protocol as a required component of service delivery. This protocol will link all newly diagnosed PWH, or those who were previously diagnosed and returning to care, to their first medical appointment within seven days of identification.	
Planning & Preparation	Activity	Collaborate with Ryan White-funded providers to identify existing linkage to care efforts and establish a framework for rapid linkage to care using a multi-disciplinary approach (intensive case management, peer and faith support, mental health treatment, etc.)
	Lead Entity	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	Creation of the service delivery framework for rapid linkage to care.
Planning & Preparation	Activity	Create a service delivery model for inclusion in Year 1 Ryan White Part A contracts, including standards of care and quality indicators.
	Lead Entity	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	Service delivery model created by December 2021.
Year 1	Activity	Release Outpatient Ambulatory Medical Care (OAMC) contracts with mandated rapid linkage to care components.
	Lead Entity	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	OAMC contracts include rapid linkage to care components.

STRATEGY 2.2		Develop and implement a pilot program to adapt the Contingency Management model used in substance use services to HIV care (provision of motivational incentives and tangible rewards to PWH who are erratically engaged in care).
Year 1	Activity	Collaborate with Substance Use Programs to evaluate and adapt the Contingency Management model to improve retention in HIV care and viral suppression among PWH who are erratically in care.
	Lead Entity	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	Community-informed adaptation of the Contingency Management Model to HIV retention and care services.
Year 1	Activity	Development of a pilot project to assess adaptability and effectiveness.
	Lead Entity	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	Pilot project initiated by February 28, 2023.
Year 2	Activity	Based on the pilot's success, incorporate service delivery into the continuum of NHRWP services.
	Lead Entity	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	HIV Contingency Management model established as a contracted service.

STRATEGY 2.3		Develop and implement a jurisdiction-wide presentation series to promote best practices in HIV care and prevention and ignite conversation about local issues that impede progress toward ending the local HIV epidemic.
Year 1	Activity	Host a community-informed presentation series. Sessions will focus on personal growth, professional development, and leadership; innovations in service delivery; and addressing diversity, inclusivity, and health disparities of PWH.
	Lead Entity	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	Completed presentation series.
Year 2	Activity	Based on community response, host a second community-informed presentation series.
	Lead Entity	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	Completed presentation series.

STRATEGY 2.4		Complete detailing sessions to increase provider knowledge of the availability of Ryan White-funded medical care, supportive services, and linkage to care systems.
Year 1	Activity	Complete at least five detailing sessions with medical providers that are not funded by the Ryan White Part A Program.
	Lead Entity	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	At least five detailing sessions completed by February 28, 2023.
Year 2	Activity	Complete at least five detailing sessions with medical providers that are not funded by the Ryan White Part A Program.
	Lead Entity	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	At least five detailing sessions completed by February 29, 2024.

Recommended Strategies for Community Implementation

STRATEGY 2.5		Train medical providers to expand their ability to offer high-quality, affirming, and sex-positive medical care to LGBTQ+ people, including PrEP/PEP services and HIV, hepatitis and STI testing and treatment.
Year 1	Activity	Present at least two trainings to increase provider competency to offer affirming, sex-positive medical care to LGBTQ+ people.
	Lead Entity	Connecticut Department of Health
	Performance Metric	At least two trainings are provided.
Year 2	Activity	Present at least two trainings to increase provider competency to provide affirming, sex-positive medical care to LGBTQ+ people.
	Lead Entity	Connecticut Department of Health
	Performance Metric	At least two trainings are provided.



GOAL 3: REDUCE HIV-RELATED DISPARITIES AND HEALTH INEQUITIES

OBJECTIVES

- Reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination
- Reduce disparities in new HIV infections, in knowledge of status, and along the HIV care continuum
- Address social determinants of health and co-occurring conditions that exacerbate HIV-related disparities

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Strategies for Implementation by the New Haven Ryan White Part A Program

STRATEGY 3.1	Develop a system-wide approach for HIV service delivery using the “designing for the margins” model to reach marginalized populations that have experienced forms of systemic exclusion such as structural racism, poverty, gender and sexuality-based discrimination, incarceration, trauma, mental illness, and substance use disorder.	
Year 1	Activity	Recruit community stakeholders to take part in evaluation and planning efforts.
	Lead Entities	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program, Greater Hartford Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	Participation by a diverse coalition of community stakeholders.
Year 1	Activity	Evaluate the current delivery of HIV prevention care services and identify structural vulnerabilities for populations experiencing health disparities (people of color, unstably housed individuals, youth and young adults, transgender individuals, and people living in rural areas).
	Lead Entities	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program, Greater Hartford Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	Evaluation completed by February 28, 2023.
Year 2	Activity	Create the framework for a revised systems-wide approach to HIV service delivery that focuses on reaching the most marginalized populations to address disparities in health outcomes.
	Lead Entities	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program, Greater Hartford Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	Framework completed by February 29, 2024.

STRATEGY 3.2		Engage Black faith leaders to educate their congregations and communities on HIV to increase awareness and reduce stigma and discrimination toward people living with HIV. Incorporate faith-based initiatives into NHFFRWP quality improvement activities.
Planning & Preparation	Activity	Host a presentation series focused on how Black faith communities can address HIV in their communities.
	Lead Entities	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program, Greater Hartford Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	The presentation series is completed.
Planning & Preparation	Activity	Facilitate Black faith leaders to complete a planning initiative to create a one-year plan for their faith communities to address HIV awareness, stigma, and discrimination.
	Lead Entities	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program, Greater Hartford Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	The one-year plan is completed by February 28, 2022.
Year 1	Activity	Implement the one-year plan for Black faith leaders to address HIV awareness, stigma, and discrimination. Incorporate faith-based initiatives into NHFFRWP quality management activities.
	Lead Entities	Black faith leaders, New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program, Greater Hartford Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	All strategies and activities identified in the one-year plan are completed by February 28, 2023. Faith-based initiatives are included in RW quality management performance metrics.
Year 2	Activity	Evaluate Year 1 activities. Facilitate Black faith leaders to develop and implement a Year 2 plan to address HIV awareness, stigma, and discrimination.
	Lead Entities	Black faith leaders, New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program, Greater Hartford Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	All strategies and activities identified in the Year 2 plan are completed by February 29, 2024.

STRATEGY 3.3		Complete an assessment of HIV-related stigma and discrimination experienced by PWH.
Year 1	Activity	Collaborate with the New Haven/Fairfield Counties HIV Services Planning Council and the Greater Hartford Ryan White Planning Council to develop a survey tool and strategy to assess local HIV-related stigma and discrimination.
	Lead Entities	New Haven Ryan White Part A Program, Greater Hartford Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	Development of a survey tool and assessment strategy
Year 1	Activity	Implement the assessment strategy.
	Lead Entities	New Haven Ryan White Part A Program, Greater Hartford Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	Stigma and Discrimination assessment completed by February 28, 2023.

STRATEGY 3.3		Complete an assessment of HIV-related stigma and discrimination experienced by PWH. (continued)
Year 2	Activity	Evaluate the assessment findings and develop an action plan for reducing HIV-related stigma and discrimination.
	Lead Entities	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program, Greater Hartford Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	Action plan completed by February 29, 2024.

Recommended Strategies for Community Implementation

STRATEGY 3.4		Advocate for the passage of legislation to establish routine HIV screening in emergency rooms, hospitals, urgent care centers, and other clinical settings, and as a part of prenatal care for pregnant women.
Planning & Preparation	Activity	Recruit community stakeholders to lead advocacy efforts.
	Recommended Lead Entities	HIV Stakeholders, Connecticut State Department of Health
	Performance Metric	Participation by a diverse coalition of community stakeholders.
Year 1	Activity	Facilitate community stakeholders to complete a planning initiative to create a one-year plan for engaging legislators, school board leadership, and community members to support the revisioning of sex education in middle and high schools.
	Recommended Lead Entities	HIV Stakeholders, Connecticut State Department of Health
	Performance Metric	The one-year plan is completed by August 2022.
Year 1	Activity	Implement the one-year plan.
	Recommended Lead Entities	HIV Stakeholders, Connecticut State Department of Health
	Performance Metric	The one-year plan is completed by August 2023. Legislation is successfully passed by February 29, 2024.
Year 2	Activity	Training is provided to clinical sites to prepare them to implement routine HIV screening.
	Recommended Lead Entity	Connecticut State Department of Health
	Performance Metric	Trainings are presented.
Year 2	Activity	Implementation of routine HIV screening statewide.
	Recommended Lead Entity	Connecticut State Department of Health
	Performance Metric	Routine HIV screening in all clinical settings is implemented.

STRATEGY 3.5	Advocate for the passage of legislation or changes to school board policies that support comprehensive, age-appropriate, LGBTQ+ inclusive, sex-positive sex education curricula in Connecticut middle and high schools.	
Year 2	Activity	Recruit community stakeholders to lead advocacy efforts.
	Recommended Lead Entities	HIV Stakeholders, Connecticut State Department of Health
	Performance Metric	Participation by a diverse coalition of community stakeholders.
Year 2	Activity	Facilitate community stakeholders to complete a planning initiative to create a comprehensive plan for engaging legislators, school board leadership, and community members to support the revisioning of sex education in middle and high schools.
	Recommended Lead Entities	HIV Stakeholders, Connecticut State Department of Health
	Performance Metric	The plan is completed by February 29, 2024.

STRATEGY 3.6	Develop and implement community-informed educational media initiatives to increase community knowledge of HIV and modern methods of HIV prevention and treatment.	
Year 1	Activity	Collaborate with community stakeholders to inform the development and implementation of an HIV knowledge/awareness media campaign.
	Recommended Lead Entity	Connecticut State Department of Health
	Performance Metric	At least two community listening sessions are presented.
Year 1	Activity	Develop an HIV knowledge/awareness media campaign using traditional and digital formats. Establish relationships with local influencers, community leaders, and other partners to support messaging on digital platforms. Create and distribute a social media tool kit to community organizations. Establish a performance monitoring and evaluation plan.
	Recommended Lead Entity	Connecticut State Department of Health
	Performance Metric	Complete all pre-launch activities related to the media campaign by February 28, 2023.
Year 2	Activity	Implement the HIV knowledge/awareness media campaign.
	Recommended Lead Entity	Connecticut State Department of Health
	Performance Metric	Presentation of the media campaign. Campaign performance assessed using the performance and monitoring plan.



GOAL 4: ACHIEVE INTEGRATED, COORDINATED EFFORTS THAT ADDRESS THE HIV EPIDEMIC AMONG ALL PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

OBJECTIVES

- Increase coordination of HIV programs across all levels of state/county/city governments and with faith-based and community-based organizations, the private sector, academic partners, and the community
- Enhance the quality, accessibility, sharing, and use of data, including HIV prevention and care continuum and social determinants of health data
- Improve mechanisms to measure, monitor, evaluate, report, and disseminate progress toward achieving organizational, local, and national goals

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Strategies for Implementation by the New Haven Ryan White Part A Program

STRATEGY 4.1	Analyze Ryan White program data and state/local epi data to evaluate viral suppression among clients based on service use, provider, geographic area, demographics, etc. Identify opportunities that support increased retention in care. Priority zip codes for re-engaging out of care/lost to care clients are 06704, 06705, 06902, 06854, 06810, and 06811.	
	Year 1 Activity	A comprehensive analysis of viral suppression among NHFFRWP clients is completed and evaluated.
	Lead Entity	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	Viral suppression analysis completed.
	Year 1 Activity	Collaborate with the Strategic Planning & Assessment Committee of the New Haven/Fairfield Counties HIV Services Planning Council to identify priorities and develop an action plan.
	Lead Entity	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	Action Plan established by February 28, 2023.
Year 2 Activity	Implement the action plan.	
	Lead Entity	New Haven/Fairfield Ryan White Part A Program
	Performance Metric	Strategies and activities identified in the action plan are completed by February 29, 2024.

Recommended Strategies for Community Implementation

STRATEGY 4.2	Re-establish the Connecticut State Department of Health's common data collection and reporting system. This will support local health departments and community-based organizations to complete data-driven HIV, hepatitis, and STI disease investigation activities, engage out-of-care PWH into care, and address geographic disparities in real time.
Year 1 Activity	Address provider concerns about using multiple systems to collect HIV, hepatitis, and STI programmatic data. Develop an action plan to reinstate the previously used data collection and reporting system.
Recommended Lead Entity	Connecticut State Department of Health
Performance Metric	Uniform data collection among Ryan White Programs is reestablished by February 28, 2023.

STRATEGY 4.3	Engage PWH, Ryan White Programs, planning bodies, and community stakeholders to evaluate the status of current relationships and establish a shared vision and structure for future collaboration.
Year 1 Activity	Facilitate HIV programs, planning bodies, and community stakeholders to develop guiding principles for maintaining collaboration, trust, and transparency.
Recommended Lead Entity	Connecticut State Department of Health
Performance Metric	Guiding principles for community collaboration are established by February 28, 2023.