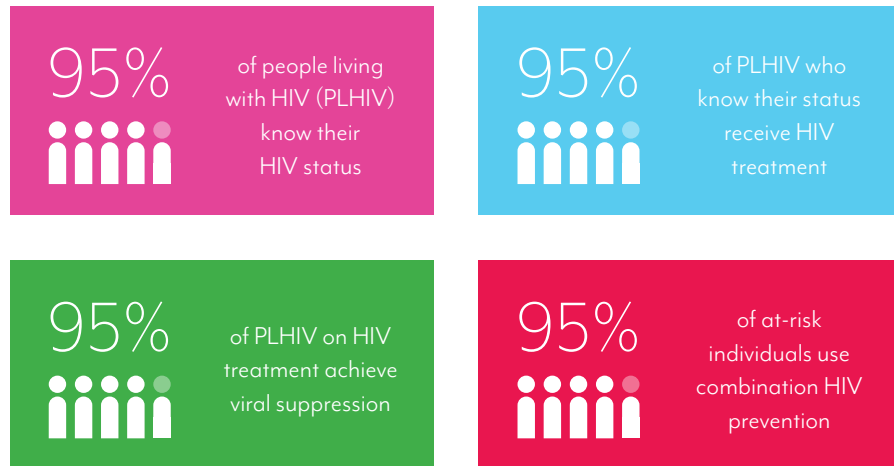


FAST-TRACK CITIES AND ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC IN THE UNITED STATES

SYNERGIES AT A GLANCE

More than 30 cities and counties across the United States have joined the Fast-Track Cities initiative since its launch in 2015. Like the 300-plus other Fast-Track Cities worldwide, the U.S. cities and counties are committed to attaining and surpassing global HIV programmatic and service delivery targets, namely:



As the initiative's core technical partner, the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) is committed to supporting U.S. cities and counties to advance data-driven approaches that embrace country-specific programmatic targets while maintaining a focus on advancing collective action, facilitating community engagement, addressing health inequities, and promoting health-related and overall quality of life. This level of commitment and support allows the Fast-Track Cities initiative to leverage its experience and network of local stakeholders to collaborate with the 57 priority U.S. jurisdictions tasked with developing and executing city, county, and state implementation plans to achieve a 75% reduction in new HIV infections by 2025 as called for in the U.S. Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE): A Plan for America.



The 2019 national EHE Plan, closely aligns with and is supported by existing Fast-Track Cities activities. As of March 2021, the Fast-Track Cities initiative has recruited and successfully onboarded 32 U.S. cities and counties, and is actively recruiting additional cities and counties, as well as entire states. Many of the national EHE Plan's priority jurisdictions overlap with current or prospective Fast-Track Cities. IAPAC has worked closely with national, state, and municipal stakeholders at all levels to facilitate Fast-Track Cities alignment with the national EHE Plan, as a means of accelerating progress and avoiding duplication. All Fast-Track Cities have goals, targets, and interventions that are aligned with those central to achieving the national EHE Plan's objectives. Moreover, the tailored city, county, and state EHE implementation plans developed in each of the 57 priority jurisdictions will serve as the principle guideposts for how to end the HIV epidemic in the United States, bolstered by the Fast-Track Cities initiative's commitment to data-driven, equity-based approaches that prioritize the meaningful engagement of affected communities in every city, county, and state across the United States.

A distinct feature of the Fast-Track Cities' framework for stakeholder engagement is the active engagement of Mayors and County Executives; local health department officials (e.g., city, county, state); clinician key opinion leaders; HIV- and related service providers; and leaders from affected communities. The aim is to facilitate planning, implementation, and evaluation activities, as required by the national EHE Plan, but through a holistic lens that also focuses on social enablers for optimal HIV and other health outcomes (i.e., syndemic conditions) and improved health-related quality of life for affected communities. In addition to various Fast-Track Cities resources, U.S. cities and counties that have joined the initiative also gained the ability to share best practices among themselves (and the global network of 300-plus Fast-Track Cities), offering an opportunity to overcome cross-cutting barriers and challenges to accelerated urban HIV responses, including within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

THE FAST-TRACK CITIES STRATEGY IS ALIGNED WITH THE NATIONAL EHE PLAN'S FOUR KEY FOCUS AREAS:



Supportive resources include Fast-Track City technical guidance (i.e., model implementation plans), monitoring tools (i.e., data dashboards), capacity-building modules (e.g., HIV prevention and treatment continuum optimization, stigma elimination), best practice-sharing (e.g., best practice repository, workshops), and assessment mechanisms (i.e., quality of life survey). As important, through the development of communities of learning, IAPAC aims to facilitate exchanges across the U.S. Fast-Track Cities network that are designed to support the national EHE Plan's goals beyond the technical assistance that is available through public funding, and contribute to a more robust set of interventions to address social and structural barriers primarily affecting key populations.



FAST-TRACK
CITIES





There is ongoing work to strategically leverage the Fast-Track Cities framework to harmonize with and support federal HIV response efforts in 48 counties and seven states with the highest HIV incidence. This harmonization and leveraging are critical to ensure that cities, too, benefit from the political commitment and financial resources necessary to achieve the goal of ending the U.S. HIV epidemic by 2030."

Mayor Steve Benjamin
Columbia, South Carolina



"HIV is an issue that affects everyone, and it demands an all-inclusive long-term solution. I am proud of the work the City of Phoenix has already accomplished as a Fast-Track City, but know there is much more to be done. Together we will work to end this disease in our city once and for all, and remove the unfair stigma associated with people living with HIV."

Mayor Kate Gallego
Phoenix, Arizona



People of all backgrounds, ethnicities, and socioeconomic status are affected by HIV. Among the greatest challenges in addressing this public health crisis is the stigma surrounding HIV and AIDS. As a Fast-Track City, and through the power of advocacy and education, we can eliminate the stigma and change Baton Rouge for the better."

Mayor Sharon Weston Broome
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



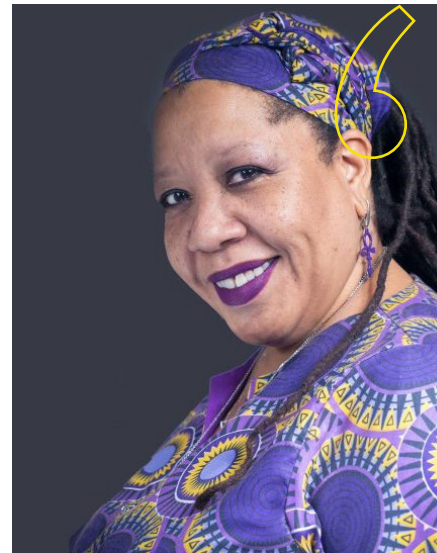
We are proudly reaffirming our Fast-Track Cities commitment to helping those living with HIV and to ending the epidemic by 2030. We will continue to provide the best quality care for our affected communities and work to stop new transmissions from occurring, but we know there is so much more to be done."

County Judge Lina Hidalgo
Harris County, Texas



We have come so far in the fight against HIV, but there is still more to be done. We are fully committed to ending AIDS in Fulton County by 2030, and I give my pledge that we will do whatever it takes as a Fast-Track County – including providing the resources, working with our partners, implementing best practices, and taking on bold new initiatives.”

Chairman Robb Pitts
Fulton County, Georgia



We have had many challenges to achieving a best way forward to end HIV in the Metropolitan Atlanta area. With the planning and implementation tools of the Ending HIV Epidemic, Fast-Track Cities, and other public health platforms that improve the engagement of people living with HIV, we are working our way towards putting our best feet forward and the epidemic behind us.”

Dázon Dixon Diallo, DHL, MPH
Founder/President, SisterLove, and
Co-Chair, ACT NOW: END AIDS
Atlanta, Georgia



The invitation to sign on with Fast-Track Cities has placed New Orleans on global scale with other international cities as we collectively forge ahead toward Ending the (HIV) Epidemic. Signing onto the Fast-Track Cities network served as a catalyst for generating 90-90-90 data and initiating planning processes that have mobilized local stakeholders to work collectively in developing creative processes to address our common goal of leaving no one behind. Our progress toward meeting (and exceeding) the 90-90-90 targets is within reach, and we encourage other cities to join us.”

Fran Lawless, MHA
Director, Office of Health Policy and AIDS Funding
New Orleans, Louisiana



“Fast-Track City St. Louis will celebrate its one year anniversary on December 1, 2020. Over the past year, St. Louis has positioned itself as a catalyst for regional leadership around advancing equitable practices and policies based on sound data that places people living with and affected by HIV at the center of our response. Moreover, we have forged critical partnerships with community partners that have been dedicated to this work for years, which I believe will have a substantive impact on clinical and social outcomes for key populations.”

Mati Hlatshwayo Davis, MD, MPH
Clinical Instructor, Washington University
St. Louis, Missouri



The District of Columbia has made great strides in curbing the HIV epidemic, including as a Fast-Track City since 2015. By working collaboratively with the health department, government, clinicians, community, and researchers, collectively we can achieve the 90-90-90 targets and work to improve the lives of persons living with HIV and prevent new infections in the nation's Capital."

Amanda Castel, MD, MPH

Associate Professor
George Washington University
Washington, DC



New York City was one of the first U.S. cities to sign on to the Fast-Track Cities initiative and in 2019 became the first Fast-Track City in the United States to reach the 90-90-90 targets. We are proud to partner with cities all over the world to end the HIV epidemic. Through this initiative, New York City has had the opportunity to share knowledge and best practices and learn from colleagues all over the world as we aim to achieve the same goal. Working together we will end this epidemic!"

Stacey Wilking, MPH

Director, Cross Bureau Collaboration
Division of Disease Control
New York City Department of
Health and Mental Hygiene



The Oakland LGBTQ Center is working together with community-based organizations, our Mayor, and other elected officials to bring an LGBTQ-specific lens to our local HIV prevention and treatment continuum. For Oakland's queer people of color, it is critical that our Fast-Track Cities initiative includes culturally competent and LGBTQ-centered community-based care."

Joe Hawkin

CEO/Co-Founder
Oakland LGBTQ Community Center